Meeting Notes – May 23, 2023

The LaFayette Rotary Club held its weekly meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Rotarian Dantz Frazer was responsible for the program and invited Bill Nixon, managing director of the New Horizon Theater, and Amy Guinn, its artistic director, to speak to us. New Horizon Community Theater (NHCT) has completed 38 seasons and has produced 177 shows. Over the past 24 years they have awarded 79 scholarships, totaling $53,000.00, to graduating high school seniors. Although it took twenty years, they now own their own building and are completely debt-free, other than monthly operating expenses and production costs. When planning on the new building, they were projected to raise $450,000.00 from the community. Thanks to two sizable corporate donations and the generosity of many individuals, they raised $1.4 million dollars. Each year, ticket sales cover only a portion of the expenses of their productions and none of the daily operational costs. As a 503c3, they rely on corporate sponsorships and individual donations to meet their on-going needs. It was noted that none of the actors or cast members receive any pay for their performances.

The 2023-24 season will feature seven performances. This summer the NHCT will also offer the 14th Annual Performing Arts Camp with Julia Langley for young performers. Following the camp, they will add two new Young Performer Productions to the season line-up, Find Nemo, Jr. and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Jr.

Bill Nixon announced he will begin the process of stepping down as the managing director. He introduced Amy Guinn who will be moving into that position. Amy spoke of the many positive outcomes experienced by those participating in the theater. One of the biggest advantages for young performers is the building of communication skills and the positive impact those skills have when it comes time to interview for jobs. Rotary members were given a schedule of the performances for the upcoming season as well as application for season tickets.

Diane Sherriff