Meeting Notes – Jul. 18, 2023

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, July 18, with the club president Stephen Wheeler presiding. President Wheeler presented two awards, one to the club itself and one to an individual Rotarian. The club received a Certificate of Appreciation from the District Governor, Carol Argo, for sponsoring two students to attend the 2022-23 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program. Rotarian Allen Tucker was presented with a Certificate of Completion for his participation in the Rotary Leadership Institute during the 2020-21 year.

Brandon Ison was responsible for the Tuesday, July 18, program, and he invited fellow Rotarian Mac Tucker to speak. Mac shared some of the history and underlying philosophy of the Rotary Club. Mac has been a Rotarian since 1994. Our LaFayette Rotary Club was founded in July of 1937.The original Rotary Club was started in 1905 as a club for professionals from diverse backgrounds (business, retail, industry, commercial) to exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. Over the years the original vision was expanded to include humanitarian service. Rotary International's first project was the eradication of polio. This effort began in 1979. This has largely been achieved, although there are still two countries where the virus is present. Rotary was able to accomplish this by spearheading the effort over several decades. After the success of that project, Rotary International began expanding its focus into other areas, such as promoting peace; providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; saving mothers and children; supporting education, growing local economies; and protecting the environment. Rotary International also has an emphasis on diversity, equality, and inclusion. Mac spoke of both the pros and cons of the organization's current goals and visions and the role our club plays.

In addition to the ideal of service, Mac spoke of the enjoyment our members receive each week from the fellowship with fellow club members. Rotary has a four-way test to apply to the things we think, say or do:

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Diane Sherriff