Meeting Notes – July 30, 2024

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, August 30, for its weekly meeting. Rotarian Dantz Frazer (pictured on the left) was responsible for the program. We were honored to have with us as our guests Rotary District Governor David Allgood (pictured in the middle) and Assistant Governor Paul Golden (pictured on the right), representing our northern district, District 6860. Governor Allgood was our speaker.

Rotary's theme this year, selected by Rotary International (RI) President Stephanie Urchick, is The Magic of Rotary. Governor Allgood reminded us of Rotary's service heritage and the fact that Rotary exists to serve. Rotary International actually has two mottoes, "Service Above Self" and "One Profits Most Who Serves Best". Local clubs are the basic service element. The district is there to serve the clubs. We currently have 52 clubs in our district, comprised of clubs across north Alabama. Our district has produced four RI presidents over the years. Over the past year we have lost 120 Rotarians from the clubs in our district. Governor Allgood has set a goal for each club to increase membership by two and for our district to add four new clubs. Three new clubs are in the process of being created. Membership in our local LaFayette Rotary Club has dropped by two members over the past five years.

RI President Urchick has established four priorities for Rotary this year: the complete world-wide eradication of polio, prioritizing peace, achieving a balance between continuity and change, and utilizing and animating the Rotary Action Plan. Currently there are only a few cases of polio left world-wide and those are found in just two countries. If we could totally eradicate polio, it would be only the second disease to be eradicated. Smallpox is the other disease that has been eradicated. A recent step toward prioritizing peace is the opening of a new Peace Center in the Middle East, located in Istanbul, Turkey.

Our District 6860 has set its own goals as well. The first is training, bringing learning to the clubs. The second goal is in the area of membership and the implementation of new member orientation. The third goal involves public image and ways to enhance our image. The final goal involves the Rotary Foundation and grants.

Governor Allgood commended the LaFayette Rotary Club on its participation in the Operation Wipeout campaign, in conjunction with UAB and the Rotary Club of Birmingham, as well as other partners. This is a campaign to wipe out cervical cancer. Alabama is the first state in the nation to have a plan and has been recognized nationally for our efforts. Fellow Rotarian Dr. Butch Busby has been instrumental in this effort and was recognized for his service by the presentation of the District Governor's Challenge Coin by Governor Allgood.

Governor Allgood spoke briefly about the bifurcation of Rotary, with Rotary International being the club side of the organization and the Rotary Foundation being the money side of the organization. He reminded us of our District's biggest fund-raising event, the Boilin' and Braggin' tailgate, held in Birmingham on August 17. Money from this event goes to support the Critical Care Transport Team for Children's Hospital in Birmingham. The district has raised more than a million dollars for this cause over the years.

In closing, Governor Allgood offered us the option of a club self-assessment. He encouraged us to identify what we do well, what do we want to do better, and how can the district help.

Diane Sherriff