Meeting Notes – Apr. 22, 2025

The LaFayette Rotary Club held its weekly meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. Rotarian Dantz Frazer introduced his son and fellow Rotarian, Scott Frazer, as our speaker. As way of introduction, Dantz told the club that Scott was diagnosed with autism at the age of three.

Dantz remembers distinctly he and his wife sitting around a table with nine different professionals giving them advice soon after receiving their son's diagnosis. Scott initially attended a preschool program at Burwell, one of the psychoeducational programs in GA for students with special needs. Scott ultimately transitioned to West Point Elementary School, Long Cane Middle School and then graduated from Troup High School. He has earned the rank of Eagle Scout through the Boy Scouts of America. He went on to earn a college degree. Scott loves traveling and is especially interested in visiting the World War II battlefields in Europe.

Scott prepared and shared a PowerPoint presentation with the club focused on autism. He shared with us the definition, history, and characteristics of autism. He also gave us numbers on the number of people affected, the prevalence, and common myths and misconceptions. These myths and misconceptions can have negative impacts on a person with autism, such as depression and loneliness.

Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) is the diagnosis Scott received at age three. This falls under the autism spectrum disorder umbrella. Scott explained that he has trouble socializing, understanding other's emotions, with changes in routine, and with math and can become emotional or anxious. He likes to be alone with his thoughts. He has fixations on history, Godzilla, and Indiana Jones. He credits his success thus far with a tremendous support system comprised of his family and friends. He has learned to review and analyze any mistakes he makes and to learn from them. He had an IEP in school which helped him to be a successful student. He has learned to joke about his disability and not be offended by those who may not understand.

Scott has traveled quite a bit for a young man his age. He graduated with honors from the University of West Georgia in 2023 with a degree in history and archaeology and a GPA of 3.75.

Diane Sherriff