Meeting Notes – May 13, 2025

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at Krave Korner. Rotarian DeAnna Hand invited as our guest speakers Ansley Emfinger, senior project manager for the Chambers County Development Authority (CCDA) and Andie Roberts, project manager for the CCDA. Ansley and Andie gave the club an update on Leadership Chambers County.

A list of the 15 current participants was read. Four of the group are from the LaFayette area. There were a total of 40 applicants for this inaugural class. An outside group made the selection of participants. So far, two of the four sessions of Leadership CC have been held. Prior to the first session, the participants were paired up and participated in activities designed to help them get to know each other. The focus of the first session was on group development, general leadership, and civic clubs. A representative from Troy University spoke to the participants on leadership and group development. The second session focused on the history of the Chambers County courthouse, our court system and jail, and local governments. They participated in a panel discussion with representatives from our nationally-elected officials' offices. The Chambers County SWAT team and the drug dogs gave demonstrations as well. Future sessions will focus on the CCDA office, tourism, the Highway Department and infrastructure, and East Alabama Water. Surveys are distributed after each session in order to receive feedback and improve the program for the future.

Applications for the next Leadership class will open in October 2025 and will be due in November. Decisions will be made in December and the class will begin in January 2026. In order to be eligible, applicants must be Chambers County residents and be at least 21 years of age. Those accepted will be required to attend one city council meeting (LaFayette, Lanett, or Valley), one school board meeting (Lanett or Chambers County), and one Chambers County Commission meeting.

Diane Sherriff