Meeting Notes – Jun. 11, 2024

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, June 11. We were honored to have our district governor (DG), Mary Grace Evans, pictured on the right with Rotarian John Caldwell on the left, join us today.

DG Evans is from Madison County, AL, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville. Their club has about 100 members and sponsors two local Interact Clubs. She is the youngest of five children and was born and raised in Huntsville. Her father was also a Rotarian and instilled Rotary's values in the family. They believed in service, in allowing others to keep their dignity, showing respect, not being judgmental, and looking at and emphasizing a person's character. She was asked to visit and join the Greater Huntsville Rotary Club some years after becoming an adult and was drawn to Rotary's ideal and practice of service. Among other service projects, her Greater Huntsville club does wheelchair ramp builds, in which she actively participates. DG Evans considers each build a great opportunity to know her fellow club members better and to change the lives of others. Her club also focuses on Uganda, sponsoring girls to go to school.

She spoke of Rotary International President Gordon McInally's theme for his term, Creating Hope. This encompasses a focus on mental health, building peace through virtual exchanges, and empowering girls. Rotary International also continues its mission of eradicating polio, which is now found in only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. DG Evans heard a woman at the RI Conference in Singapore speak on the threats to her life because she administered the vaccine to children.

DG Evans also explained how our donations to the Rotary Foundation were used. Roughly 50% of the donations fund district grants. The other 50% supports Peace Centers, global grants and the Polio Plus campaign.

Leadership succession was also discussed. The 2024-25 RI President will be Stephanie Urchick and her theme will be The Magic of Rotary, with an emphasis on the local club experience. Our next district governor will be David Allgood from Ft. Payne, who will be visiting our club on July 31. He will be followed by Butler Cain from the University of North Alabama (2025-26), then Elizabeth Garcia, also for the Greater Huntsville Club (2026-27). All terms start July 1 and last for one year.

Diane Sherriff