

AirMedCare Network

January 20, 2012

At Friday's Drumright Rotary meeting, Rotarian, Dick Seeberger, welcomed his guest, Dorinda Gouw of AirMedCare Network.

AirMedCare Network combines the benefits of membership to three air medical transport companies: Air Evac Lifeteam, Med-Trans and Eagle Med. These companies use helicopters and airplanes to transport patients with an emergency situation to the nearest appropriate place of treatment.

AirMedCare Network operates in twenty-four states and has over one-hundred fifty-five launch bases. In Oklahoma there are thirteen launch bases that serve over ninety percent of the rural area. Here in Drumright, the nearest launch base is in Cushing just a few miles away.

Living in Drumright, our citizens enjoy being centrally located to Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Stillwater; however, by highway, it can take close to an hour to arrive at the desired destination. In the event of a medical emergency, that drive time could mean the difference between life and death.

Locally, we are extremely lucky to have Drumright Regional Hospital and Cushing Regional Hospital. Both facilities serve the area well. Sometimes, however, there is a need for a larger facility and expertise such as in the case of severe burns. This is one example where air ambulatory service is necessary. Every helicopter that is launched contains an experienced pilot, emergency nurse and medic. "It's like having an ER in the helicopter", says Dorinda. The helicopter is authorized to fly the patient to the nearest appropriate hospital critical care unit – burn, cardiac or another condition. Since each company works on an on-call basis, the trio is launched within four minutes of receiving the dispatch call.

Having an emergency can be very scary and in those critical moments the only thought is save my loved one – just don't let this be the end. Usually, later after the loved one is safe, the thought of how much is this going to cost our family starts running through your head. The average life flight in Oklahoma is \$20,000. For the majority of critical care patients this is just one of the costs associated with their situation. If you have health insurance that will help with the overall cost, but the out of pocket can still be daunting for many families.

Fortunately, Dorinda talked to our club about memberships through AirMedCare Network that helps keep the out of pocket cost for air ambulatory services down. With the purchase of a membership, there are no other costs over and above what the insurance plan pays. Whether insurance covers fifty percent or eighty percent, AirMedCare Network considers the cost, not covered by insurance, as paid in full, because of the membership.

With several membership plans to choose from, it is very easy to get the plan right for your family or household. AirMedCare Network will provide stickers and ID cards to place in all vehicles including tractors and boats. They also offer corporate memberships. With over one-million members in AirMedCare Network, it is easy to see why they are the largest Air Medical Membership program. For more information, please contact Dorinda Gouw at 918.399.2885 or gouwdorinda@amgh.us.

Our other guest was Reggie Gaskins of Cushing.



Dorinda Gouw, Dick Seeberger

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Milton Skaggs and his guest speaker from the Department of Labor Commissioner's office.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club or go to our website www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary.

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian