



Muskegon Rotary in Motion

Susan Crain, President
 Josh Wallace, Pres-Elect
 Cathy Brubaker-Clarke, Pres Nominee
 Pam Babbitt, Secretary
 Tim Arter, Treasurer
 Brianna Scott, Imm Past President

Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 216 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916

January 21, 2016 12:10pm

Muskegon Harbor Holiday Inn

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



Ed Hendrickson, Director
 Linda Juarez, Director
 Kathy Moore, Director
 Jason Piasecki, Director
 Robin Henshaw, RIM Reporter
 Bill Johanson, RIM Editor

THE FOUR WAY TEST THAT ROTARIANS USE IN MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS:

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



Program: "IMove: The World of Rehabilitation" Marty Sytsema

MEETERS / GREETERS

Ginny Sprague

TIME FOR REFLECTION

Carla Skoglund

THIS MEETING'S MENU

Assorted Pizzas; salad bar with 6 toppings, 3 dressings; garlic bread sticks; assorted desserts

STUDENT GUESTS

Holton Red Devils

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Steve Dix Jan 20

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- 01/28 Marijuana Prevention
- 02/04 Conflict Resolution
- 02/11 Diversity & Inclusion
- 02/18 Junior Achievement
- 02/25 Rebound Brazil Student
- 03/03 Rotary Presentation TBD
- 04/30 **100 YEAR CELEBRATION**

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Cobb Plant Soon History by Bob Scolnik

I was on the last public tour to leave the BC Cobb electric generating plant in Muskegon last Saturday afternoon. About 350 people took one of the tours offered by Consumers Energy before the plant is shuttered on April 15, and the decommissioning/ demolition process begins.

Visitors were transported in groups of about 20 on trolleys during the day from the old Masonic Temple downtown to the plant site on the Causeway. The last public tours were offered in the late 1990s after which the events of 9-11 required tightened security on all such facilities.

The plant is huge and in great shape, but the generators date back to the late 1940s. Coal is a four-letter word these days, so Cobb's time was up. Two of the five generators had been converted to run on natural gas, but they're small; still, they could be used if

necessary.

Only about 65 people work there now, down from about 225 at its peak, and none will lose their jobs. About a third will retire and the others have positions at (relatively) nearby facilities. The shutdown is a huge tax loss for the community.

This was my first time in the plant: a construction and engineering marvel in its day.

Above, we see a Saturday tour group in the turbine room. The photo below shows the last coal freighter unloading. BC Cobb has been

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the only Consumers Energy plant receiving all of its coal by water. Its departure will have a significant effect upon our community until decisions are made as to what the expensive lakeshore property can be used for. Bothered also will be incoming boaters who for years sighted in on Cobb's 650-foot emissions stack.



The Long Ago Misadventures of a Misunderstood Utility Worker by Bill Johanson

I'm a Consumers Energy retiree with fond memories of the Company and its employees over 33 years – 1970-2003. Since BC Cobb is closing soon and farewell tours are being conducted by Company employees, I've been sentimentally looking back upon my own involvements with CE generating plants, and a few you might find interesting.

I joined Consumers in 1970 fresh from college, recently back from the US Army Vietnam, and soon to be married. My task ahead was to develop the Company's new Jackson MI videotape production facility and all that *that* entailed.

I'd studied Radio-TV Broadcasting at Indiana University and believed industrial videotaping would be an easy crossover. HA! Probably the only thing saving my job, besides my creativity, was knowing more about helical-scan (magnetic tape) equipment than any hiring-firing corporate official.

First week in Jackson I received a tremendous assignment: video shoot the inside of a Karn Plant turbine, in a once-in-a-lifetime open condition for repair. I got to Bay City early with my cumbersome gear set to go, but all the Karnasians wanted was a 10-second action shot of some gizmo moving that wasn't supposed to be. A 10-hour day, portal-to-portal, for a 10-second work product: what had I gotten myself into?

A worse deal, soon after, was bringing my video gear to BC Cobb in office attire and dress shoes, only to be perched for hours atop the overhead crane (see page 1) taping B roll for a future crane safety program. 100+ degrees - pass out city - up there, and the last time I'd dress up all pretty for a similar setting.

WELCOME TO THE BIG TIME >>>



I was recruited to host a videotape promoting the Company's PAC to employees - here interviewing US Congressman Bob Carr – to gain support eventually for plants and all facilities.



During a Ludington plant tour for a large group of Swedish tourists, I was told that one in the group, left, who spoke no English, might have the same name as mine, including my middle initial. So I tried talking to him briefly, but he seemed confused... that is, until I gave him my business card. From then on, William B Johanson from Sweden and I became buddies, talking up a storm in our respective languages, not understanding a thing the other was saying, but caring not.

>>> In 1981, my family and I had moved to Muskegon from Manistee then Traverse City. I was suddenly a Public Affairs Supervisor, becoming the Company spokesman for generating plants and electric service centers in five West Michigan counties. This new media responsibility was a bit unfamiliar to me but, hey, how tough could it be!

In less than a month, I was helping coordinate a week-end Open House to celebrate the state-of-the-art JH Campbell 3 & 4 Generating Plants in Port Sheldon Twp; that seemed duty enough, but Greenpeace environmentalists picked that very weekend to climb BC Cobb's emissions stack, in a storm with 50 mph winds, to hang a large banner for all the world to see.

Of course, the media sought out the utility company's local spokesman for comment. That now would be me. Yikes! But in some new-found brilliance, I noted to *The Muskegon Chronicle* that such banner hanging was "an incredibly dangerous thing to do," while at the same time being overjoyed that no one was hurt or blown off our chimney. As I recall, my little quote was received positively enough by Company managers; either that in their silence or no Jackson exec had read the day's clippings.

Before my arrival in Muskegon, I'd picked up enough generating plant knowledge to know at least a little of what I'd present to audiences or tour groups later in my career. In 1971, Consumers' UWUA collective



bargaining employees began a 112-day strike. Part of that time, I worked strike duty: a basement operator at the JH Campbell Plant (later, Campbell 1). First day there, I was assigned, with scant instruction and all by myself, to empty three railroad tank cars of fuel oil into an underground storage tank. Well, I emptied the first two cars fine, each taking about an hour to empty. Then, complacency (or boredom) set in and I seemed to have forgotten the entire emptying procedure for tank car #3. Sadly, I'd bought a couple of spiffy new work pants and shirts to start my strike duty in fashion. But now, one set was totally drenched with fuel oil, ruined, and I quickly snuck into the plant's shower room in hopes that no one would see and recognize me for the doofus I was. Anyway, I learned then and there that generating plant complacency is less than a good thing. So, too, is forgetting picky little details.

Plant tours were also specialties for me, mostly at the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant – talk about a 1973 engineering marvel -- but also at Campbell and Cobb and at the Muskegon River's Hardy Dam Hydroelectric Plant. Speaking of Hardy Dam, I was quite new in my job as Region Communications Director in Grand Rapids, 1986, when the area experienced what our engineering team called a "storm of the century." Most concerning were the rising waters of the Muskegon River and a possible breaching of Hardy Dam from failure of the dam's old

and never used emergency spillway. WOTV Channel 8 asked for a live interview to begin its 11pm newscast, and off I went. Tah-dah! Fortunately, 30 minutes before air time, the rain lessened and river levels began to decrease. We found out later that the emergency spillway was designed to handle 100-year storm waters as long as certain procedures (instructions for which were misfiled in the plant at the time) were followed. Nevertheless, contemplating a 100-foot wall of water cascading from Hardy Dam to Muskegon Lake in less than an hour, tearing up bridges, roads, etc, did generate a chunk of concern. And I *might* have divulged a similar scenario for inquiring minds out there in Televisionland. But, my mission that TV evening was to honestly explain what was happening while reassuring the public that there was absolutely nothing to worry about. There wasn't, was there?



Round Rotary's RIM



President Susan Crain, above, opened the last meeting with a wonderful quote that lights the path of those who are determined to make a difference in their little corner of the world. Susan said, "Your talent is innate; it is what you were born with, it was a gift. What you do with your talent, is your gift to the world." Inspiring words of wisdom from our Rotary president!

Don Crandall, below, discussed the Muskegon Area Promise and a related survey conducted with members in December. The Promise is an award promised to high school graduates within MAISD boundaries for financial assistance to obtain a two-year degree at Baker or MCC when



Q3 Should the Muskegon Rotary Club donate our existing scholarship money to the Muskegon Area Promise?		
Answer Choices	Responses	
• No:	36.84 %	28
• Yes for one year:	25.00 %	19
• Yes for two years:	38.18 %	29
• Total		76

used in conjunction with federal, state and institutional grants. A cumulative 3.5 GPA from a qualifying high school is a stipulation.

Our Board is considering possibly funding The Promise as a major focus of our community outreach efforts and has asked the membership for input.

Positive survey responses included selecting The Promise as our *Grape Escape* partner for the next year or two, and selecting it to receive our community grant during the same period. Less positive was utilizing our existing scholarship money to help fund The Promise.

The issue now goes back to the Board. See Don if you have a question or concern.

Orville Crain received a rousing applause after presidential recognition for his fantastic schmoozing skills and ability to "hook a fish" three times! He recently added three new recruits to our fantastic Club, and is always on the lookout for terrific prospects with a "Service Above Self" attitude. Way to go, Orville!

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This publication, Muskegon Rotary in Motion (RIM), is intended for the private, non-commercial use of our members and friends. RIM content includes correspondents' reports, meeting announcements, amateur satire, and Club- or member-related social media items. The deadline for RIM announcements is Thursday noon for the following week's issue. Submit brief announcements in writing to Editor Bill Johanson or one of the RIM Correspondents above.
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Brave Rotarians have one less of their number since the meeting. **Secretary Pam Babbitt** no longer



has the cooties! And **Kirk Hallman** was Cootie victim extraordinaire the previous week. Keep coming back each week to see who ends up as the Cooties Finals Brave Rotarian!

John Noling, reporting for the Rotaract Committee, congratulated the Baker College Rotaract Club for receiving a 3rd Presidential Citation in a row! "Out of the 8,000 clubs in the world," John said, "we have two of the best!" And they keep making Muskegon proud with their hard work, dedication and commitment to excellence.

Thought you might like to see this. Below is my granddaughter Addy who is fighting kidney cancer. Son Josh flew down to be with her in Ft. Myers for a week to lend some support and morale. What a Wallace! JD Wallace, Sr



Last Week's Program

The Lost Art of Outdoor Exploration by Robin Henshaw

Speakers: Dr. Richard Rediske, left, and President Ron Brown



The Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve located in North Muskegon is a 17-acre peninsula surrounded by wetlands, woodlands, lakes and trails. It is open to the public and is fully barrier free allowing easy exploration for all who care to experience the wonders of Muskegon. The Nature Preserve offers many wonderful learning opportunities for K-12 students and offers a rate of just \$50.00 per group! That's an amazing price for a priceless adventure. Why? Because there is a new obstacle facing the youth today called Nature Deficient Disorder and it has been linked to health and social issues in our youth.

Dr. Rediske brilliantly highlighted the importance of the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve by citing two books that research and uncover the newest tragedy facing our youth. The first book, "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv, discusses the social and health issues linked to Nature Deficient Disorder. The other book, "The Shelter of Each Other" by Mary Pipher, covers the importance of

family and how technology and shifting cultural norms have begun to break down the traditional ideals surrounding childhood, and how they are linked to family.

The Nature Preserve, according to President Ron Brown, offers an open classroom where children are exposed to the great outdoors and encouraged to ignite their imagination and explore the "art of playing." Being out in nature helps motivate children and adults alike to let go of their stress and relax. In fact, the American Public Health Association found that outdoor parks, garden recreation and spending time in nature are vital to good health and emotional wellness. So, if you have a few minutes to spend outdoors, why not spend it at The Nature Preserve birdwatching, fishing or exploring the wetlands. You will feel better and you may stumble upon a rare treat in nature.



Baker Rotaractor of the Month – Nov '15

Amanda Rupert is a first year member of the Rotaract Club of Baker College of Muskegon. She is majoring in Paralegal and is very active in our club. Since joining our club, Amanda has volunteered at Kids' Food Basket every Friday. She has also been helpful with our club fundraising by volunteering at the table fundraiser we hosted at Baker College in November. Amanda also donated crafts and baked goods to be sold at the table event. Thank you so much for all you do, Amanda!



Above: Your Invitation to Three Stories at a Time: Women of Accomplishment. Speaker Nancy Crandall. CLICK: <http://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/0001911/en-ca/files/homepage/greater-muskegon-woman-s-club/Greater-Muskegon-Woman-s-Club.pdf>

This Week On Stage

Marty Sytsema has been in the rehab business for a long time, and is part of revolutionary changes that discover and track and repair bodily problems more efficiently than ever before and with more permanent solutions. As America ages, this is a great program for people bent on staying healthy and happy throughout the Golden Years.

Visiting Rotarians & Friends

Visiting Rotarians last week were Montague-Whitehall member Ed Kaminski; and Grand Rapids member **Paul Keep**. Then we enjoyed meeting BSA exec Brian Springett (**Rem Sprague**), BBBS ED Lisa Hegenbart (**Dawn Johnson**), prospective members Mitch Anderson (**John Noling**), and Robin Henshaw (**Dan Sawka**), the latter of whom did a fine, fine job as this RIM issue's reporter.