





**“Service Above Self”**

# Muskegon Rotary in Motion

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



Susan Crain, President  
 Josh Wallace, President-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  
**May 19, 2016 12:00 - 1:15pm**  
**Lake House Waterfront Grille**  
 Satellite Club 5:15 - 6:30pm at Holiday Inn



Ed Hendrickson, Director  
 Linda Juarez, Director  
 Kathy Moore, Director  
 Jason Piasecki, Director  
 Frank Marczak, 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?

**“John H McGarry III: Much Appreciated Community Servant”**

“This is it: the absolute edge of no return: to turn back now and make home or sail irrevocably on and either find land or plunge over the world's roaring rim” - William Faulkner

**SPECIAL EDITION Ed. Note:** John McGarry became a Muskegon Rotarian in 1990, according to our Club's meticulous records, and resigned 23-some years later in order to accommodate significant personal goals; no doubt, he possessed a carefully-culled Bucket List. For those of us who knew him know: there's little doubt that John carefully considered his eventual passing, hopeful that the event would lead to enjoyable tales from the past with friends, peppered far more with smiles than tears; in that spirit, we'd like now to offer you a few RIM bits and photos featuring Rotarian John. Feel free to smile gently and let a happy memory or two take over. He'd like that. For more newsy news about John and other Muskegon exploits, please click on the following MLive/Chronicle's link:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2016/05/michigan\\_historian\\_john\\_mcgarry.html?ath=3e585eac5becb6637fa330ea134d8cea#cmpid=nltr\\_strybutton](http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2016/05/michigan_historian_john_mcgarry.html?ath=3e585eac5becb6637fa330ea134d8cea#cmpid=nltr_strybutton)

(Mar 4, 2010)  
**John McGarry**, right, received a Tip of the Rotary Hat for his recent trip to Russia to honor and remember World War II hero and Muskegon Rotarian **Joe Beyrle**.



recently traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, a large city on the northwestern edge of that huge country. Their mission was to host a very special exhibit entitled, *“Joseph R. Beyrle: A Hero of Two Nations.”*

It wasn't always a comfortable trip. During the nine days there, 36 hours were spent on an airplane. The February weather, brutally cold, was typically minus 25 Celsius (7 degrees Fahrenheit). *“Everybody wears furs (to keep warm),”* John said.



(Apr 15, 2010)  
**About Joe and Muskegon**  
 Take the tale of a revered American (and Russian) war hero as told by “everyone's favorite storyteller” and you've got a Rotary program nothing less than spectacular. Central characters in this traveling adventure are Susan and John McGarry, right, during their recent trip to Russia to honor WWII soldier (and former Muskegon Rotarian) “Jumping Joe” Beyrle. **John McGarry** and his wife Susan

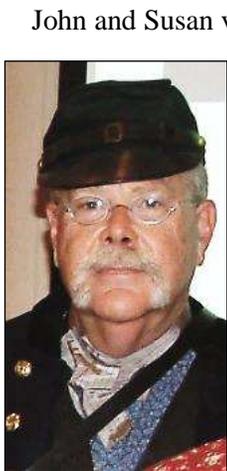
What kept John warm was relating the WWII exploits of **Joe Beyrle**, an Army paratrooper and former Muskegon Rotarian who once stood bravely and modestly before the Club

to tell his story. “Jumping Joe” is a national hero in Russia as well as in the United States. This acclaimed warrior and his contributions have certainly struck a chord in Russia, John said.

The day after Joe's exhibit opened, the *St. Petersburg Times'* front-page story reported, “The exhibition reflects broader theme than the extraordinary war time achievements of one man. Sixty-five years after victory in Europe was declared, it is a celebration of US - Russian cooperation during the war, and a source of inspiration for current US - Russian ties.” >>>

>>>As John's once-in-a-lifetime journey continued, his most emotional moment came in the back of a car traveling from St. Petersburg south to the suburban town of Pushkin. St.

Petersburg was under siege for 900 days during the war and, as he passed through this area, John saw old tank treads that helped keep the line steady. He had a little tear in his eye because "the only thing keeping the Germans on those hills were tank treads made in Muskegon, Michigan." It's estimated that America sent 450,000 vehicles to the Russians during the war and most of the engine blocks, tank treads and crankshafts came from our local foundries.



John and Susan visited many historic structures on their trip, many unrivaled in the world, and John's PowerPoint slides, he said, hardly did justice to the buildings. Russian museum guides are all state

certified, and visitors must wear booties to protect the elegant wooden floors. From the Stroganoff Palace to the home of the American Consulate General, Russia is a beautiful place and its people are warm and caring.

The Beyrle exhibit, traveling now to Moscow and then throughout Russia, will be welcomed by literally thousands of Russians. On display will be the bravado of our Jumping Joe and the work of everyday Muskegon men and women who produced much of the material needed to support the war effort.

- Tony Johnson



↑ (Sep 9, 2010)

Last meeting's Civil War reenactors are inviting us to a very special Living History Weekend (Sep 11-12), at Michigan's Heritage Park at Hilt's Landing in Whitehall, starting 10am both days. Reenactors are, from left,



Sharon McCullers, Vance Sheffer, Beryl Gabel, Rotarian John McGarry, and Dani LaFleur. Take US31 to Colby St, Exit 128; go east to Viking Tool and Tutak Excavating for a free shuttle bus to the Civil War site. Food and beverages and souvenirs will be available.



(Apr 14, 2011)

## History: Some like it; others, not so much

One of John McGarry's funniest Gettysburg stories is from a trip to his favorite



Civil War town a few years ago. He and his pals spotted a "beat-up station wagon" that had just

stopped near the famous Copse of Trees. "Geez, Martha!" the driver said, almost beside himself, "here's the Rebs' target during Pickett's Charge – the High Water Mark of the Confederacy! And... and here's where Cushing's Union Battery held firm during the charge. And... and here's where General Armistead fell and... and..."

"Pickett Schmickett, Ed!" chortled his wife. "Let's go get the kids a hamburger." For more on John's stories and our Lakeshore Museum Center, kindly come visit.



A favorite Club talteller, Lakeshore Museum Center Executive Director John McGarry examines for us a small but mighty educational device that, in quantity, is loaned to area elementary schools for free, enhancing student learning and saving school districts over \$50 per device. The Center's unique ability to provide relevant learning is being noticed by educators throughout West Michigan.

(Apr 14, 2011)

## 75 years of service

Begun as the Muskegon County Museum in 1937, the Lakeshore Museum Center is still going strong serving the “purpose of preserving and interpreting through exhibits, education and programs, the natural and cultural history of Muskegon County.”

What struck me was how blessed we are to have this wonderful community resource, which not only includes the Lakeshore Museum Center building proper, but also the Hackley and Hume Historical Site, Depression-era Scolnik House, Fire Barn, and the Archive Center... *plus* the new Hilt’s Landing 19-acre site along the White River in Whitehall, very near the US31 Colby Street exit. Besides the popular, current exhibits, “Michigan through the Depths of Time and Coming to the Lakes,” a new temporary exhibit regarding the Thomas Hume, a 3-masted lumber schooner



**Don Mathews, left, always had a great question or two for speakers.**

headed back to Muskegon in 1891 when it disappeared during a storm, will open in May at the Center. The ship was recently discovered in very good shape about 25 miles North of Chicago in 154 feet of water. [www.lakeshoremuseum.org](http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org) has lots more interesting details. These and all visits are free to Muskegon County residents.

The Museum staff works closely with area schools to make sure the 24,000+ annual student visits to the Museum have a solid educational purpose and outcome which lines up exactly with the students’ grade level content expectations. This speaks so well for our Lakeshore Museum Center and local schools working together to get education done right.

### An exciting new venture

The future of newly-developing Hilt’s Landing looks bright for increased tourism and possible filming locations, as more of the walk-through exhibits, ie, Indian village, fur trader’s outpost, Civil War site, CCC Camp, etc., are developed in the coming months and years. Where else in Michigan can you find a walk-through history of the State of Michigan anything quite like this? **(It’s open now – call for dates/times.)**

The Museum is a public not-for-profit organization that works closely with a 25-member Board of



Trustees and the Muskegon County Commission for the benefit of the County’s citizens. **John McGarry** will celebrate his 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of leading this terrific enterprise as executive director in June. Well done John!

On May 3, as part of the school board elections, Muskegon County voters will be asked to consider renewing the .325 mill request for another 10 years. *It will not increase taxes* and supplies 90% of the Museum’s annual budget. Please educate yourself about this valuable community resource at [www.lakeshoremuseum.org](http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org), and stop in for a visit. If, as **John McGarry** says, “a museum helps define who we are,” then *I say* I want to define myself as someone who heartily supports the Lakeshore Museum Center.

Please share with others the importance of this renewal for our community. – **John Noling**



(July 9, 2015)

A bittersweet happening last week was the retirement of Lakeshore Museum Center CEO **John McGarry**, above right, being congratulated here by Consumers Energy executives Carolyn Bloodworth and **Roger Morgenstern**.

