

# The RIM Newsletter

# Rotary

# InMotion



Club 16 (2809) District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916  
<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



*Is it the truth?*

*Is it fair to all concerned?*

*Will it build goodwill and better friendships?*

*Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

Celebrating the people, events, and actions of the Muskegon Rotary Club

April 10, 2025

**Next Meeting (April 17, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — BBQ at the DELTA**  
**Program Topic – Homeless Youth in Muskegon**

## What's Coming

April 17 - Homeless Youth in Muskegon

April 24 – Inbound Exchange Students

## Upcoming Birthdays

April 18 Camille Jourden-Mark

April 18 Michael Poulin

## Caring Connections Fund



[Click this link to donate \\$10 on your birthday](#)

## Greeter This Week

Melissa Horton

## Reflector This Week

No Reflection This Week

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Reporter – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

4/10/2025 Muskegon Rotary  
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

## Visitors & Guests



Dave Medendorp introduces his guest and fellow Realtor Eric Ratkiewicz



Andy Buelow introduces his guests, Claire Schlaff and Barbara Bresette-Mills



Kathy Hegedus introduces Immediate Past District 6290 Governor Jeff Coil from the Fremont Club.



Jeanette Hoyer introduces her guest and Goodwill Industries colleague Amy Cumings.



Dom Bunker introduces her guest, new United Way of the Lakeshore colleague Talaya Gordon.

## Muskegon Rotary Board

Tim Arter, President  
Dave Alexander, President-Elect  
Roger Morgenstern, President Nominee  
Ginny Sprague, Past President  
Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer  
Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary  
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator  
Directors:  
Aaron Maike Tom Palmer  
Brandon Turnbull Esther Ricco  
Marty Sytsema Lisa Tyler

Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):



Many thanks to **Melissa Horton**, filling in for the vacationing **Kim Boersema**, did a fine job connecting our Rotarians zooming in from places near and far!

## RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: John Noling, Mike Vogas, & Doug Wood

## This Week's Program: Disability Services

**Panelists:** Amy Cumings (Goodwill Industries of WM) Myra Dutton (HGA Support Services), Jill Bonthuis (Pioneer Resources), and Brad Hastings (Disability Network)

**Moderator:** Andy Buelow



Panel moderator and co-chair of our Club's DEI Committee, **Andy Buelow**.

The greater Muskegon community is indeed fortunate to have a variety of organizations focused on making sure those of us with disabilities can have full and productive personal and professional lives.

This week's panel discussion, moderated by Rotary DEI Committee co-chair **Andy Buelow**, featured experts in the field to discuss their roles in working with those with disabilities.

## Our panelists were:



Panelist Amy Cumings, job placement supervisor with Goodwill Industries of West Michigan

Amy Cumings is the job placement supervisor with Goodwill Industries of West Michigan, where she has worked since 2015. In her current role, Amy cultivates partnerships with local businesses committed to inclusive hiring, helping them unlock the full potential of their workforce. She is a colleague of Rotarian **Jeanette Hoyer**.





Panelist and Rotarian **Myra Dutton**, CEO of HGA Support Services.

Rotarian **Myra Dutton** is the CEO at HGA Support Services, a nonprofit providing residential and autism training support to persons in Newaygo, Muskegon, Oceana and Mason counties for the past 45 years.



Panelist and Rotarian **Brad Hastings**, Systems Advocacy Manager at Disability Network West Michigan

Rotarian **Brad Hastings** is the Systems Advocacy Manager at Disability Network West Michigan, where he leads efforts to remove barriers for people with disabilities through education, advocacy, collaboration and outreach.



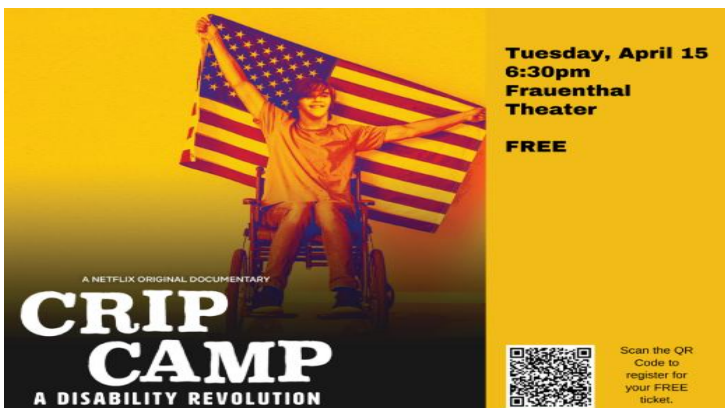
Panelist and Rotarian **Jill Bonthuis**, CEO of Pioneer Resources.

Rotarian **Jill Bonthuis** is the CEO of Pioneer Resources, a nonprofit serving Muskegon and Ottawa counties to provide access to housing, training, recreation and transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities.



Our panel to discuss disability service available in greater Muskegon.

Andy covered a variety of issues with our panel. On the topic of how can workplaces, schools, and communities improve representation and visibility of people with disabilities in leadership roles, Cumings suggested having employee mentorship programs would be helpful. Hastings said having not only your organization's employees but also board members include those with disabilities "can make your workplace more inclusive."



Bonthuis said looking at an organization's hiring procedures and making sure there are no barriers to being able to apply and understanding a workplace's employee assistance programs are important for potential employees.

Andy raised the issue of "Intersectionality" and how do factors such as race, gender, and socioeconomic status intersect with disability, and how can we ensure DEI efforts are inclusive of these intersections. Hastings said he often points out that "disability is the largest minority group you can join at any time" no matter your gender, race, socioeconomic status, etc. Cumings added that in her career, she's seen many instances that women and non-binary individuals with disabilities are often overlooked.

Several of the panelists reminded us that many disabilities can be invisible. Hastings said the Americans with Disabilities Act addresses any disability that "impacts a primary work function."

The group also discussed "equality vs equity." Bonthuis relayed a story of a worker who used a wheelchair and was thrilled with his job as well as his co-workers but mentioned he wished he could have a hot lunch while at work. When someone indicated there was a microwave in the break room, they soon realized it was at a level not reachable for the colleague in the wheelchair. "You need to always be looking at your workplace" Jill said.

The panel shared several personal stories they have related to family members with disabilities. Dutton, who is the parent and guardian of a daughter with multiple disabilities, said "When you are a parent you

want your child to do what everyone else wants to do." She recounted a story when she was throwing an 18th birthday party for her daughter, a student at Wesley School. Another parent called to thank her, and in tears, said her daughter had never been invited to a birthday party.

In a related matter, the panelists reminded us of the 6:30 p.m. April 15 free showing of Crip Camp. Information is above in the *RIM*.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Adopt-A-Highway Program Looking for Volunteers



Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, April 12. Volunteers will meet promptly at 8:45am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 11:00am, sooner if we get a lot of help 😊). I am also looking for two drivers to drive along with the volunteers who are picking trash. If you can help, please contact Esther Ricco, [riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu) and she can provide you with details. Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!



**Meredith Smillie** thanks the 48 Brave Rotarians who participated in the March Madness fundraiser.



Brave Rotarian March Madness Bracket Winners **Craig Person** and **Mary Anne Gorman** drew the two names of participating Brave Rotarians receiving Paul Harris Fellows in their name. Those winners are **Susan Besteman** and **Jamie Sowa**.



**Community House**  
Coffee Shop

**New Member Social-  
Pours for Community**

**Join other new members and  
enjoy a cup of coffee.**

**Thursday April 24**  
**7:30-9:30 am**  
or  
**5:00-7:00 pm**





## Rotary In Action

### Jason Piasecki Past President



Our Rotarians in Action segment this week featured Jason Piasecki, co-owner of Revel, a Muskegon marketing agency, and a 20-year Rotarian. He talked about the benefits of “branding” and how it enhances an organization. One of his favorite branding quotes, from Simon Sinek, is ‘people don’t buy what you do, they buy why you do it’ “and that is really applicable to Rotary because Rotary is all about the why,” Jason said. To watch his video, click [here](#).

## Caring Connections

If you know anyone in our Rotary family who may need some comfort during a difficult time, please reach out to **Tom Palmer**, member of our Rotary Caring Connections Committee, at [tomp@shorelineagency.com](mailto:tomp@shorelineagency.com). If you would like to donate in addition to your annual birthday \$10 contribution, [click here](#).



Jeff Coil, a Fremont Rotarian immediate past District 6290 governor, addressed our club and congratulated members for all the work they're doing in the youth services area.

## Interact & EarlyAct Events Mark your April Calendars

### DATES & LOCATION

\*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Harbor Dunes/Kruse Park clean up

\*Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Park clean up

### TIME

\*9:00am to 12:00pm

### ASK

\*Plastics, tires, shoveling sand from beach stairs, etc

### LUNCH

\*Fireside hot dogs and chips Lunch served at 11:30 am at both locations

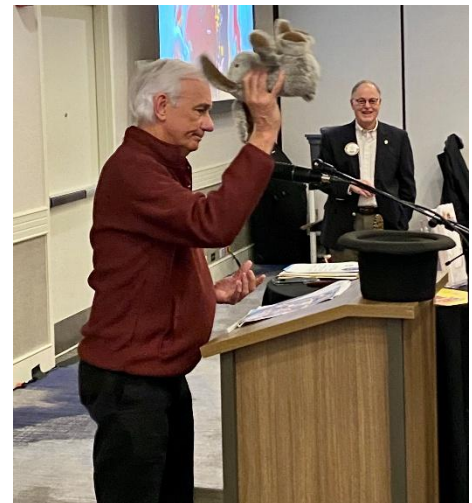
### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

\*Students, parents, and Rotarians working together as part of Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

Hope you can help get the word out and join us!



Tim Lipan, on behalf of our awesome **District Governor Brianna Scott**, actually did pull a rabbit out of his hat (unlike the bear he had last week) to promote the "magical" District 6290 Leadership and Empowerment Summit here in Muskegon May 3-4. See more information, including a QR code, elsewhere in *RIM*, to register.



Dear Fellow Rotarians of Rotary District 6290,

Through the generosity of Rotary Charities of Traverse City, our Rotary District 6290 can offer again the PHF, 500 recognition point match program. Participating in this Foundation Annual Fund will further our Foundation Grants program. Every dollar contributed to the Foundation Annual Fund will count towards our available DDF.

I hope you will consider participating in this great program and support our Rotary Foundation Annual Fund.

For every \$500.00 cash donation to the Annual Fund, 500 points will be added from the generous gift of the Traverse City Charities, for a Paul Harris Fellow award. You may designate yourself or someone you know to assign the PHF award. If you are interested in participating, please contact Meredith Smillie at 616-566-9828 or [msmillie@bethany.org](mailto:msmillie@bethany.org)



### Youth Programs

With awesome assistance from **Mike Vogas**, a collection of photos sent along by **Esther Ricco** and others was turned into a great slide show highlighting the work this week in El Salvador by a group of Interact students from across RI District 6290. Of the group, there were seven Interactors and five chaperones from the Muskegon Club. In fact, three of the chaperones are former Interact students. [Click here](#) to view the video.

### Immediate Past District 6290

**Governor Jeff Coil**, who is involved in many youth programs across the district, visited us from the Fremont Club to congratulate our Club on our youth services programs. From offering the EarlyAct, Interact and Rotaract student programs, offering nearly 30 scholarships to the Life Leadership Academy June, having seven students currently in either inbound or outbound international exchange programs and our recent efforts in El Salvador and Honduras, Jeff said our Club's commitment to youth is impressive. "Thank you, Muskegon. You guys are awesome and keep it up!"



### April is National Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month

(SAAM). MADL recognizes the ongoing need to put an end to the crime of sexual assault. April is also a time to acknowledge the resilience of those impacted by sexual assault including survivors and victims, as well as advocates and professionals supporting survivors, and to ensure that our homes, places of learning and work are safe for all. Recommended reads: [CLICK HERE](#)

## Ten Books About Strong Women

Her Hidden Genius by Marie Benedict – about a woman scientist

The Women by Kristen Hannah – about a woman who served as a nurse in Vietnam

How to Read a Book by Monica Wood – about a female prisoner and how she survives on the “outside”

Eleanor of Avignon by Elizabeth DeLosier – about an herbalist and physician's assistant during the Plague

Finding Margaret Fuller by Alison Pataki – about an unknown writer during Emerson's time who needs to be known

I Swear by former Representative Katie Porter – about her life getting elected and serving. She is expected to be running for Governor of California

Say More by Jen Psaki – about her career as press secretary and in newscasting

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus – fiction about a strong minded and determined Chemistry teacher who had a popular TV Cooking Show

Clara and Mr. Tiffany by Susan Vreeland – about a woman who worked for Mr. Tiffany and is thought to have designed Tiffany lamps

Dinners with Ruth by Nina Tottenberg – about Nina's friendship with Ruth Bader Ginsber

## Pours for Community

### What is Pours?

Pours is one of Muskegon Rotary's key fundraising events, helping us **"pour the money back"** into the community and beyond. Funds raised support local and international causes, including literacy programs, youth leadership, community projects, and global humanitarian efforts.

### Upcoming Events & Locations

(sign-up is not necessary but appreciated for appetizer planning)

**\*\*Thurs. 4/17, 5-7pm**

– 794 Kitchen & Bar

**\*\*Mon. 4/21, 5-7pm**

– Unruly Brewing

[Sign up for 4/21 here](#)

**\*\*Thurs. 4/24, 7:30-9:30am &**

**5-7pm – Community House**

**\*\*Fri. 5/2, 4-6pm**

– Wonderland Distilling

**\*\*Tues. 5/6, 5-7pm**

– Muskegon Brewing Company

Thank you for supporting Rotary and our mission!



### YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Pours for Community is a food and beverage event showcasing our local breweries, distilleries, and family-friendly dining venues, with proceeds benefitting the Muskegon Rotary Foundation.

#### Youth Leadership



Supports Rotary Youth Exchange, Interact/Rotaract/Early Act clubs, and Life Leadership Conference fees for area students.

#### Community Cultural Enrichment



Investments in public art, including Muskegon area sculptures and murals, are funded by club fundraising.

#### Health and Environment



Muskegon Rotary addresses food insecurity through food trucks and supports public health and environmental education through the Marquette Microforest.

#### International Causes



Muskegon Rotary's charitable efforts contribute to Polio eradication, literacy, clean water, housing, sanitation, and more.

### 2025 SCHEDULE

	794 KITCHEN & BAR <b>Thursday, April 17</b> 5PM - 7PM
	UNRULY BREWING <b>Monday, April 21</b> 5PM - 7PM
	COMMUNITY HOUSE COFFEEHOUSE & SOCIAL <b>Thursday, April 24</b> 7:30AM - 9:30AM 5PM - 7PM
	WONDERLAND DISTILLING <b>Friday, May 2</b> 4PM - 6PM
	MUSKEGON BREWING CO. <b>Tuesday, May 6</b> 5PM - 7PM

#### Principal Sponsors:

 **BRAEBURN** Wealth Management  
Tim & Cheryl Arter

 **revel**

 Dr. F. Remington & Ginny Sprague

 **BENCHMARK** PRODUCTIONS

For more information, visit [muskegonrotary.org](https://muskegonrotary.org)

**Rotary**  
Club of Muskegon 



## District 6290 Summit

Dave Alexander and Roger Morgenstern announced that we are not done yet with eradicating polio and our many other good acts of service! As part of our Club's effort to have great representation at the District Conference in downtown Muskegon May 3-4 hosted by our own DG **Brianna Scott**, the Club will reimburse any Rotarians who have never attended a district conference \$100 of the \$175 conference fee.

Please contact **President Tim** or **Treasurer Kristi Nagengast** if you're a first timer and sign up for the conference.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE Empowerment & Leadership Summit AGENDA](#)

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E14: Jaron Jackson – Muskegon County Family Court



What does it take to keep kids out of the justice system?

In our latest episode, we talk with Jaron Jackson, a juvenile probation officer who's spent over 10 years helping Muskegon's youth find a way forward. From courtrooms to classrooms, Jaron shares what it means to be "on their team," holding kids accountable while guiding them toward better choices and brighter futures.

You'll hear how the system works, what's missing, and what we as a community, can do to step up and support real change. This one's powerful.

Listen now to Season 2, Episode 14 of the Muskegon Rising Podcast.

Stream it wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16940293-jaron-jackson-muskegon-county-family-court>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Immerse yourself in powerful learning experiences

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6290 EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP SUMMIT MAY 3 - 4, 2025 MUSKEGON, MI**

- Celebrating outstanding clubs and their impact
- Best practices for planning and executing successful projects
- Creating a strong club identity and community presence
- Leadership Development workshops
- Inspiring stories of The Rotary Foundation's Impact

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

### Special Rotary

### Ticket Discount!

RCM2425 and can be used for \$29 tickets to any Chamber concert at: <https://www.scmcqr.org/>