

# 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 24, 2025

**Next Meeting (May 1, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Pasta at the Lake House**  
**Program Topic – Museums 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII**

## What's Coming

May 1 – Museums 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII

May 6 – Law Day

May 15 – El Salvador and Honduras Trip

## Upcoming Birthdays

May 4 Marc Vanderstelt

May 6 Carim Calkins

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeters This Week

Bethann Egan

Dimitri Poland

## Reflector This Week

Mary Anne Gorman

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Mark Alpher

RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore

RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

## Friendly Reminder

Rotary will return to the Lake House next week

## Reflection



Mary Anne Gorman provides a reflection for members

### 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](#):

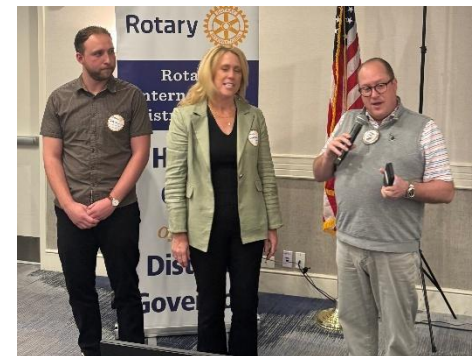
## Visitors & Guests



Cathy Bruebaker-Clark, Shari Ralston Principal, EarlyAct Advisors Tim Zinger & Amy Recor, and Lincoln Park Elementary EarlyAct Students



Chip Chipman and Outbound Students



Gary Nelund and guests Ryan Pisciotta and Laural Romanella



Rob Taylor and guest Mehean Quinn



Irma Carney and guest Dan Vaughn



Katrina Hyder and guest Deanna Girardot

## New Member



New member Ricky Gutierrez and President Tim Arter

Ricky Gutierrez was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1980 and moved to the Muskegon area at 19, where he's lived ever since. He and his wife live in Lakeside and have five children—two daughters, three sons—and three grandchildren.

Though he didn't graduate high school, Ricky became the first of his siblings to attend college, enrolling at Baker College for a year before pursuing a music career. He found success with songs on the radio, including a #1 single, and performed

in front of thousands at venues like Fifth Third Ballpark.

Today, Ricky owns Dynasty Painting LLC, a residential and commercial painting company that's grown from humble beginnings into a team of seven, including his three sons. Over eight years, the company has expanded from \$40,000 to nearly \$500,000 in annual sales, serving Muskegon and surrounding areas with painting, drywall, refinishing, and power washing services.

In his first year of business, Ricky painted a home exterior for free to bless a man who had just lost his wife of 37 years. He brought in volunteers from Orchard View's football team, and what started as a small gesture was picked up by Andy O'Riley from Positively Muskegon and Fox 17. This year, he's doing it again—stay tuned.

Outside of work, Ricky leads a weekly discipleship class and creates motivational, faith-based content. Having overcome a rough past, he's passionate about second chances, mentoring others, and using his story to uplift his community.

Ricky joined Rotary to build with others who believe in giving back and making a real difference. He's excited to roll up his sleeves and get to work. LETS GO!!!!!!

### 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

### Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:15pm at the Core Plaza (Vault). Contact **Kaytie Drake** at [kaytieely@aol.com](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) for more information.



## This Week's Program: Outbound Students

Presenters: **Skyler, Victoria,  
and Ziyah**

Introduced by: **Dom Bunker**



**Dom Bunker** introduces Outbound Students

The program began with a short video about the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, followed by **Dominique Bunker** who re-introduced current inbound students and then introduced our future outbound students. The inbound youth exchange students were featured during a previous program (November 7, 2024), so their spotlight was brief. Inbound students Laura Resende (Brazil), Appolline Pasteau Balayet (France), and Michelle Mbashall (Nigeria) shared that they are all enjoying the exchange experience and very grateful for the opportunity. Then the club's three Youth Exchange outbound students shared their excitement about their upcoming experience abroad, as well as a bit of information about the countries they will be visiting.



Outbound Student Skyler

Skyler will outbound to Brazil. She has been learning about the country and shared a few fun facts: *"Brazil is home to the largest population of jaguars; and known for its great beaches and surfing spots."*



Outbound Student Victoria

Victoria will be heading to Thailand. She informed us of Thailand's custom and tradition of taking off your shoes before entering homes and (some) buildings, especially temples.



Outbound Student Ziyah

Ziyah told us that she is looking forward to her stay in Brazil. She has been communicating with her host family and learned that both her host brother and host father competes in rodeos. Best wishes to these 3 outbound students for an eventful and life-changing experience.



Students chatting with members

## Lincoln Park EarlyAct Club Update

Cathy Brubaker-Clarke first expressed how thrilled she is to be a part of this EarlyAct group, then she introduced Lincoln Park Elementary Principal – Shari Ralston and EarlyAct Advisors – Tim Zinger and Amy Recor. and the group of EarlyAct students.



EarlyAct Advisor Tim Zinger

Tim Zinger informed us that the Lincoln Park club has 20 student members; and the students complete an application process to be accepted (aww, so does big Rotary). He explained that the club focuses on projects that impact 3 categories and introduced 3 student speakers to further explain.



Penny Fishel

EarlyAct Student Penny Fishel highlighted the club's school impact project: Teacher Snack Cart – filled with snacks, candy and drinks for teachers to select from throughout the day.



Liam Beckstrom

EarlyAct Student Liam Beckstrom presented the community impact project which included collecting items like crackers, beef jerky, pudding cups, paper bags, etc. for the Kids Food Basket (local nonprofit agency).



Sophia Herbert

EarlyAct Student Sophia Herbert reported that the club's world impact project is to raise and donate funds to UNICEF specifically for kids. The Lincoln Park EarlyAct Club raised money throughout the year by selling various items, like smencils (smelly pencils) and accepting grants/donations.

They also sold carnations (donated by Wasserman's) at the Rotary Club meeting. So far this year, they have raised...drumroll please...\$1,233! Very impressive group of caring and involved students.



**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**





## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Katrina Hyder** reminds members to attend the next Pours event

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)

### ***Rotary In Action*** **Stephanie Tushek**



**Stephanie Tushek** is an active member of the Club, serving on the New Generations Council as the Rotaract Chair and on staff for the Rotary Life Leadership Conference. She enthusiastically promotes the broad benefits of (high school students and adult volunteers) participation in the District's annual leadership conference. Positive and powerful messages, networking, and lasting impact! Stephanie shared that our club has the largest number of participants every year! She expressed gratitude and appreciation for the guidance, support, and influence of Randy Lindquist and John Noling. To watch her video, click [here](#).

### **MCC Rotaract Event** **Donor drive for DKMS stem cell matching for people with blood cancer.**



## Requesting Your Feedback

"It's springtime and for many of us, it's an opportunity to freshen things up a bit. That's what the Club is looking to do with our website, [www.muskegonrotary.org](http://www.muskegonrotary.org).

We want to hear from you...what you like about the website, what could be improved and maybe items that are missing or difficult to find. All feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Please send your thoughts to Roger Morgenstern, [rogmorgen@gmail.com](mailto:rogmorgen@gmail.com). Thank you!



# Camp Arbutus



Outbound and inbound Rotary Youth Exchange students from across Michigan gathered at Camp Arbutus in Traverse City for a weekend of preparation, learning, and connection.

Students explored topics such as adapting to new cultures, handling challenges abroad, and adjusting to life after exchange. They learned from “Rebounds” — students who recently returned from abroad — and heard an inspiring keynote from retired diplomat Jack Segal.

The weekend also featured plenty of fun, including a downtown scavenger hunt, traditional dances taught by inbound students, and a campfire sing-along of “Country Roads,” capturing the spirit of friendship and adventure that defines the Rotary Youth Exchange experience.



John Noling provides updates on projects and requests volunteers to plant trees at Muskegon High School

## Muskegon High School



## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E16: Allen Serio – Wonderland Distilling Co. and More



From craft cocktails to craft beer festivals, Allen Serio is all about bringing people together. He shares the story behind Wonderland Distilling and its evolution into a creative beverage hub. Allen also dives into his roots with the Burning Foot Beer Festival and what’s next for the Taste of Muskegon under the newly formed event company. This episode is all about community, creativity, and connection. Three things Allen keeps at the heart of everything he does.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17023382-allen-serio-wonderland-distilling-and-more>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

## 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](#)

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**



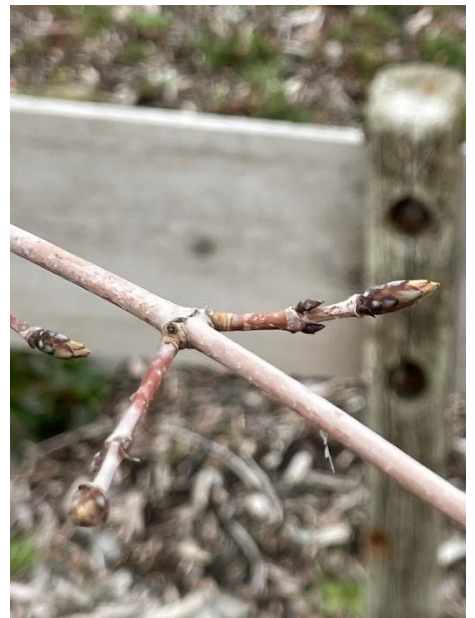
## Pours Highlights







Weeding parties 🐝 to  
be scheduled soon  
Happy Earth Day late  
and Arbor Day  
tomorrow!







## Pioneer Park Highlights



*"On behalf of Muskegon County, I'd like to thank John Noling for his exemplary work with the area Rotaract Clubs and Muskegon County Parks to coordinate two hugely successful Earth Day events at Pioneer Park and Dune Harbor Park Muskegon County.*

*John's energy knows no bounds (as most of you know!), and he is an inspiration to the youth in our county, always urging them to become active in their communities and to make Muskegon County a better place to live, work, and play. At the Pioneer and Dune Harbor events, volunteers cleaned plastics and trash from our Lake Michigan beaches, and planted thousands of beach grass culms and numerous trees to help stabilize the dune areas of the parks. John has also coordinated volunteer groups at Meinert Park and was the leader of the City of Muskegon's micro forest project. His home nursery provides hundreds of trees and plants to local groups every year.*

*John has been a consistent supporter of the Muskegon County Parks and our local parks, and his ecological work will live on for generations to come. We thank him for his great work to improve our County and encourage our youth."*

Sincerely,

Bob Lukens