

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

August 14, 2025

Next Meeting (August 21, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Sweet & Sour Chicken at the Lake House
Program Topic – Hackley Park Statues

What's Coming

August 21 – Hackley Park Statues

August 28 – Friends of the Parks

Upcoming Birthdays

August 21	Mark Alpher
August 22	Emily Morgenstern
August 24	Judy Hayner
August 25	Amy James
August 25	Kristi Nagengast
August 25	Ammy Seymour

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeter This Week

Carla Flanders
Joanie Smith

Reflector This Week

Andy Buelow

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Wyatt Huggett
RIM Reporter – Susan Besteman
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

Reflection



Andy Buelow offers the reflection.



President Nominee Lisa Tyler leads this week's meeting.



Melissa Moore and guest Jenna Lakes.

Visitors & Guests



Claire Root-Benson with guest and former student Zuri LaBrenz.



Jeanette Hoyer with guest Holly LeMaster.

This Week's Program:



Presenters:

Brianna Scott, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Melissa Moore, Doug Wood, Dwana Thompson, Heidi Sytsema, and Jeantte Hoyer

Introduction:

Nancy McCarthy



Nancy McCarthy introduces the program.

"Rotary International recently strengthened their DEI statement in 2019," **Nancy McCarthy** announced in her introduction of today's program. Click this link to see the statement: [CLICK HERE](#). Nancy highlighted, "At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change." Nancy introduced **Brianna Scott** who was instrumental in the start of Rotary's "Love Lives Here" campaign.



Brianna Scott discusses Muskegon Rotary's involvement and impact during the 2019 "Love Lives Here" rallies.



Brianna Scott shares how Rotary's DEI Committee came together to execute the 2019 "Love Lives Here" rallies.

Past District Governor **Brianna Scott**, who co-chaired the Muskegon Rotary DEI Committee in 2017, brought to light two community acts of racism that set in motion the "Love Lives Here" mantra: two graffiti incidents with racial slurs found on Muskegon High School grounds within two days of each other. Fear was setting in and community leaders were looking at how to address this issue while promoting inclusion and denouncing hate. Our Rotary DEI Committee, at that time, met and were led to foster healing with a community rally, concoct a letter to bring the community together (not create divisiveness), and have community members sign this letter. They went out to educate those in the community about what was going on which included local clergy and non-profits. They also sent out the letter to our politicians after being signed by over 200 community members. She was proud of not only the amount of people who showed up to the rally, but also the diversity of who were there too, "Muskegon did not stay silent, we rose, we rallied, we chanted, we danced, and we showed the world that our community is not built on fear, but on love, dignity, and justice."



From left to right: **Marcia Hovey-Wright, Melissa Moore, Doug Wood, Dwana Thompson, and Heidi Sytsema.**

Our other speakers took turns reading the letter. [Click here to read it.](#) It ends with, “We, Muskegon Rotary, stand together renouncing hate and bigotry and affirming our interconnectedness. We invite you all to be part of **LOVE LIVES HERE**, respecting a variety of conversations and cultures, where everyone feels welcome to share their contributions, making us all stronger together, and moving forward with hope and in peace.” Consider recommitting today.



Jeanette Hoyer reads the “Love Lives Here” letter signed by Rotary members in 2019.



Doug Wood answers questions regarding the DEI Committee’s future plans and commitments.



Our program presenters receive a standing ovation after discussing the Rotary DEI Committee’s commitment to “Love *Still* Lives Here.”



Love Still Lives Here yard signs are available for \$5. The DEI Committee is welcoming new members to continue to help. If you have an interest, contact **Andy Beulow**.

Muskegon Rotary Board

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

8/14/2025 Muskegon Rotary
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E32: Kristina Broughton Muskegon Area Marketing Professionals



In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, marketing director and educator Kristina Broughton shares how she turned a simple idea into the Muskegon Area Marketing Professionals group, now 80+ members strong.

What started as a private Facebook group has grown into in-person events, professional development sessions, and cross-industry collaborations that are shaping Muskegon’s creative future.

Listen now:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/226972/9/episodes/17667126-kristina-broughton-muskegon-area-marketing-professionals>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

RIM Reporting Team

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Carla Flanders and **Martha Fohlbrook** represent the Harvest Fest team, asking for volunteers, donated gift baskets for the raffle, and TO BUY TICKETS.



Melissa Moore reminds us about the Rotary DEI-sponsored ice cream event happening in Muskegon Heights.

Rotary In Action Dom Bunker



Dom Bunker, Youth Exchange Officer for the Rotary Youth Exchange Committee, highlights the transformative impact of Rotary's 1-to-1 youth exchange program, where every student welcomed from abroad is matched by an outbound U.S. student. She emphasizes the importance of supporting families through the often-anxious process and preparing students for leadership, public speaking, and personal growth. Dom also encourages Rotarians to help fulfill the simple but meaningful wish lists of inbound students—like attending a football game or going trick-or-treating—by inviting them along on everyday activities.

Watch the entire video [here](#)



Andrew Cutler encourages Rotary members to sign up as volunteers for Parties in the Park.

* August 22nd is Party In The Park

* We need a few more volunteers to make this party run as smoothly as possible.

* [Click here](#) to choose a volunteer position:

* Please join us in our fund-raising mission!



Jamie Sowa reminds us of the Arts & Drafts Festival and 5K happening this weekend, August 16. This fundraiser supports Mona Shores Schools and Baker College Rotaract.



Harvest Fest 2025! Muskegon Rotary Foundation's premiere fund raising event is Thursday evening, Oct. 23, at Baker College's downtown Culinary Institute of Michigan and tickets are on sale.

You can purchase them by simply clicking on the Calendar/Events tab on our clubs website (Muskegon Rotary dot org) or click [here](#). Tickets are the SAME PRICE as last year, \$85.

You'll have unlimited delicious creations from the CIM students, a seasonal gift provided by Barry's Greenhouses and Landscaping plus a free drink ticket. Enjoy an evening with great food and drinks, live music, a 50/50 raffle, silent auction and more!

Harvest Fest volunteers will be able to purchase up to two discounted tickets for \$45 each. Stay tuned on how to sign up to volunteer.

Harvest Fest will raise money for the great programs the Muskegon Rotary foundation funds, plus scholarships for CIM students and support for the Baker Rotaract Club.

Sponsorship information is also available at the same website tab.

ReWine Social Event at The Muskegon Museum of Art

Thursday, August 21, 5:15pm

Grab a friend and join the ReWine Club for an evening of art and fellowship!

Bring cash if you wish to purchase an adult beverage

Rotary ReWine Schedule for September & October

5:00-5:15pm Social time

5:15pm Meeting start time

At Core Plaza (Vault)

September 4th

September 18th

October 2nd

October 16th CANCELLED

Contact Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com for more information

Adopt-A-Highway Program

Looking for Volunteers

Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, September 27.

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 or 616-283-1810 and she can provide you with details.

Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!