

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 28, 2025

Next Meeting (September 4, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Cajon Pork Loin at the Lake House
Program Topic – Public Defenders Office

What's Coming

September 4 – Public Defender Office
September 11 – Lumber Queen Play
September 18 – PFAS in Muskegon County
September 25 – Muskegon River Assembly

Upcoming Birthdays

September 5	Darwin Smith
September 6	Kim Keessen
September 6	John Snider
September 8	Ryan Sterkenburg

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeters This Week

Jonathan Scouten
Kat Hyder

Reflector This Week

Kathy Moore

RIM Reporting this Edition

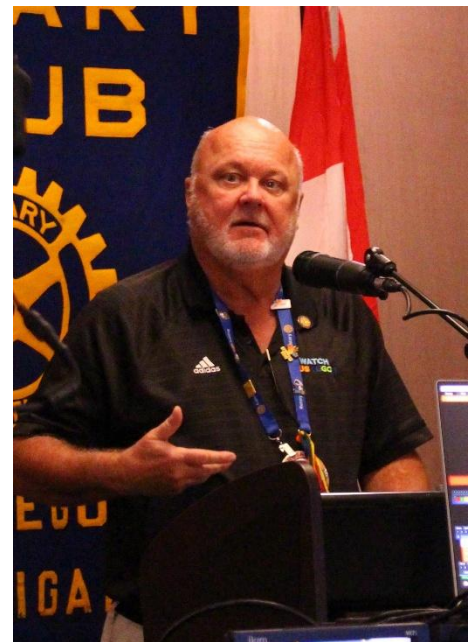
Photographer – Wyatt Huggett
RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

8/28/2025 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Reflection



Kathy Moore offers the reflection.



President Dave Alexander's "Muskegon Minute" highlights a recent gathering of 20 Rotarians to discuss the future of the Club's World Service Council and international efforts moving forward.

Muskegon Rotary Board

Dave Alexander, President
Roger Morgenstern, President-Elect
Lisa Tyler, President Nominee
Tim Arter, Past President
Kimberly Taylor, Treasurer
Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator
Directors:
Esther Ricco Tom Palmer
Melissa Moore Dimitri Poland
Arlen-Dean Gaddy Lisa Kraus
Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

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

Visitors & Guests



Carla Flanders with guest Chris Dean.



Kat Hyder with guest **Jill Boterenbrood**.



Pat Shafer with guest **J'nai Closz**.



Amy White with guest **Noele Stith**.



Arlen Gaddy with guest **Ryan Ramey**.



Roger Morgenstern with his guest—and son—**Nick Morgenstern**.

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar & Ginny Sprague
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: Saving Our Statues – Hackley Park

Presenters:
Judy Hayner
Melissa Horton
Introduction:
Rachel Gorman



Rachel Gorman introduces our speakers.

This week's program featured a fascinating presentation on the history, maintenance, and ongoing sustainability of the statues in Hackley Park. Rachel Gorman introduced our program speakers: Judy Hayner, Project Manager of the Muskegon City Public Art Initiative and former Executive Director of Muskegon Museum of Art; and Melissa Horton, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Museum Center who was progressively promoted from various roles within the organization over 27 years.



Speakers **Melissa Horton** and **Judy Hayner** share the history of Hackley Park, along with ongoing restoration and maintenance of its statues.



Judy Hayner highlighted the park's rich historical roots, noting the significance of its monuments and memorials. "It started with the art!", she proclaimed. Charles H. Hackley had the vision to build a tribute monument to the heroes of the Civil War.

He needed a place for the 80-foot monument, so he bought all the houses on the city block, helped most owners move their houses to other locations, created the 2.3-acre park, and gifted it to the City of Muskegon in 1890. Hayner continued, "But Hackley wasn't done with his park!" With the *Victory* statue as the center focal point of the park, Hackley commissioned and added four corner sculptures in 1900: President Abraham Lincoln, Commanding General Ulysses S. Grant, Commanding General William T. Sherman, and Admiral David Farragut. Major General Phillip Kearney, Jr. was added in 1901; and William McKinley, who was assassinated in 1901 in the beginning of his second term as our 25th U.S. President, was added in 1902. National Historic Designated Park.

"Fast forward 100+ years to 1994 – the statues were in horrible shape!" exclaimed our next presenter, Melissa Horton. She then outlined several behind-the-scenes maintenance and restoration efforts required to keep the structures in good condition. Much of this work depends on both dedicated volunteers and strategic partnerships with local organizations. In 1994, retiring Muskegon Museum of Art Director, Al Kochka, and then Director of the Muskegon County Museum, John McGarry raised concerns about the state of the statues, which triggered a major restoration effort. The projected cost was approximately \$85K. Donations came from the Hackley Park Fund, Parties in the Park, Muskegon Rotary Foundation, a Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grant, citizens, and a county-wide student fundraising effort (Pennies for the Park).

In September 1998, Melissa Horton participated (as a Muskegon County Museum intern) in the first washing and waxing activity. The Museum took the lead on setting up the cleaning and care for the next 22 years. This past July and August, the City of Muskegon performed conservation work once again on the statues, at the recommendation of the Downtown Arts Committee.

While Hackley Park is a welcoming place for historical reflection and community events, the ongoing care and sustainability needs of the precious sculptures heavily depend on consistent funding, donations, and advocacy. As community leaders, we were encouraged by both presenters to not only enjoy the park but also to help promote awareness of its significant memorials and support efforts to preserve them for years to come.



Andy Buelow engages in Q&A with the speakers.



Speakers **Melissa Horton** and **Judy Hayner** respond to questions.

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E34: Tonya Ruhsenberger Denver Air Connection



Regional air service is more than convenience. It is a driver of growth for our community. In this episode of Muskegon Rising, Tonya Ruhsenberger from Denver Air Connection shares how the airline is connecting Muskegon to the world and supporting local businesses, nonprofits, and families.

From generous in-flight snacks and stress-free boarding to community partnerships like Wings of Mercy, Tonya explains how Denver Air is making a big impact in a small city.

Listen now and see why Muskegon's airport is becoming a hub for opportunity:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17738503-tonya-ruhsenberger-denver-air-connection>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Rotary In Action

Andrew Cutler



Andrew Cutler, President of Muskegon Brake & Tire, exemplifies the Rotary Club motto "Service About Self" as the volunteer chair of Muskegon Rotary Club's Party-in-the-Park committee. Instead of hitting the brakes when former leadership transitioned out of the role, Andrew took the wheel and burned rubber! Through countless emails, promotional announcements, and expanded partnerships, Andrew coordinated another successful PIP fund-raising event. *"This is our opportunity to help fund the good work we do here in Muskegon County and around the world."*, Andrew stated. Volunteers are an important part of the Party's success. So, in addition to volunteer Rotarians, Andrew reached out to United Way's volunteer center for help. A value-added benefit to this approach is that it also promoted awareness of the Muskegon Rotary Club activities and services beyond our membership.

Watch the entire video [here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



President Dave Alexander shares several announcements: a reminder for Rotarians to pay July dues, no "ReWine" meeting tonight, volunteer opportunities for United Way's *Day of Caring* on September 5th, and a reminder of the 10th Annual Muskegon Polish Festival happening this Friday and Saturday at Hackley Park.



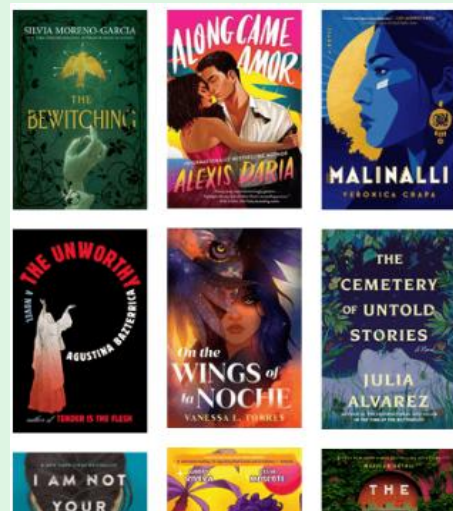
Marcia Hovey-Wright shares that "Love Still Lives Here" signs are available with an encouraged \$5 donation.



Tom Palmer speaks on the importance of Caring Connections in the club.

DEI Corner

September is Hispanic Heritage Month



For more information [Click here](#)



Cynthia Maynard calls for volunteers to help raise and lower flags on Flag Day.



Melissa Horton invites Rotarians to a Coffee Connect happening September 5th.

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!



Lisa Kraus encourages members to support Harvest Fest—and reminds everyone to buy tickets!



Join Muskegon Rotary Club for a fall FUNdraising event!



OCTOBER 23
5-8pm

THE CIM
The Culinary Institute of Michigan - Muskegon
336 West Clay Avenue

TICKETS
\$85
Scan for tickets



- ▶ Multiple Food Stations
- ▶ Live music
- ▶ Raffle & Auction
- ▶ 1 Free Beverage & Cash Bar
- ▶ Signature Gift

A crisp cool temp has moved into our area this week and that's got us thinking about [Harvest Fest 2025!](#) Want to attend? Want to get involved? Want to sponsor? It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1.) Get your tickets today! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- 2.) Click [HERE](#) to sign up to volunteer!
- 3.) Sponsor our biggest fundraiser of the year! Learn more [HERE!](#)

Thank you!
Harvest Fest Committee

Rotary ReWine September & October Schedule

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