

The RIM Newsletter

Rotary

In Motion



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 6, 2026

August 13, 2026, Meatloaf at the Lake House

Program – RI Convention in Taiwan & International Exchange Programs

What's Coming

August 13 – RI Convention in Taiwan
& International Exchange Programs

Upcoming Birthdays

August 13	Darlene Collet
August 13	Dale Strasler
August 14	Rob Taylor
August 16	Asaline Scott
August 17	Bob Garretson
August 18	Ginny Sprague
August 19	Jill Bonthuis
August 19	Kat Hyder



Caring

Connections Fund

[Click here to donate](#)

Reflection



Bill Loxterman provides the reflection.

Muskegon Rotary August 6th
YouTube Video:
[CLICK HERE](#)



Dom Bunker welcomes outbound student parents.



Meredith Smillie introduces Grand Rapids Rotarian, Ruthann Schulte and inbound student Caleb.

Stage Manager This Week

Theresa Bernhardt

Greeters This Week

Tennille Woodward
Dennis Atkinson

Reflector This Week

Bill Loxterman

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Emily Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



President Roger introduces his guest and soon-to-be Rotarian, Ron Howard.



Larry Fife introduces Jackson Rotarians, Jason Overmyer and Vittoria Jimerson-Overmyer



Lisa Tyler introduces United Way colleague and exchange student host parent, **Jana Routt**.



Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga brings her son, **Elias**.



Andrea Riegler welcomes her son, **Elliot**.



Holland Rotarian, **Catherine Bass** is welcomed by **Kristi Pawlak**.



Tara Foreman with her son, **Emerson**.



Sara Sherwood and **Amber-Mae Peterson**, guests of **Kris VanderStelt**.



Amy Deming introduces her summer intern, **Payden Pittman**.



Dom Bunker introduces this week's program.

This Week's Program:

Outbound Students

Presenters: **Skyler, Vicki, and Ziyah**

Introduced by: **Dom Bunker**

RIM Reporter:
Meredith Smillie

Outbounds are back home!

Rotary Youth Exchange was in the house, including guests **Catherine Ristola-Bass** and **Ruth Ann Schulte** District 6290 Inbound Coordinator. Bennett Lepecky has arrived from Germany and attended his first Muskegon Club meeting.

Dom Bunker introduced our program today and our three students that just returned from their adventures.



Outbound student, Skyler shares her year abroad in Brazil.

Skyler Villegas is from Ravenna and attends Ravenna High School. Skyler spent a year abroad in Brazil. Skyler lived in Santa Caterina in Southern Brazil. Skyler introduced herself in Portuguese and shared her experiences in Brazil, including snorkeling, fishing and rafting. Skyler was able to visit Rio De Janeiro and was able to celebrate Carnival. She was also able to traverse the Amazon and planted a tree during her visit to the Amazon. Skyler also shared how she saw caiman, snakes, scorpions, coati and many species of fish.



Vicki, shares virtually her experience abroad in Thailand.

Vicki is from Ravenna and attends Ravenna High School. Vicki went to Thailand for her exchange. Vicki shared that her Thai name is "lovable". She also shared that she loved school in Thailand. Vicki loved the food in Thailand and absolutely loved Pad Thai. She was greeted at the airport by all three of her host families. Vicki hopes to revisit Thailand after she graduates from high school. Vicki shared that she had to leave for school very early due to the traffic in the city her school was in. She noted that school was very tiring, and noted that she could not wear shoes in the classroom. Vicki loved representing our culture and being an ambassador for goodwill. She loved becoming more confident, focused and really understanding empathy for others who are different from her.



Ziyah recaps her year spent in Brazil.

Ziyah Ochoa also went to Brazil. Ziyah attends Muskegon High School. Ziyah had a great time in Brazil and noted her Rotary club was really there for her during her stay. Ziyah had four host families and was the first exchange student for that Rotary Club. She loved her host families and they went above and beyond to support her and make her stay enjoyable. Ziyah learned JiuJitsu while in Brazil. She also attended rodeos with her first host family. Ziyah lived in the southern part of Brazil, which also has a lot of German and Italian influences. Ziyah noted that she absolutely loved her school and classmates. Ziyah shared that one of her favorite experiences was attending Carnival and visiting the Amazon.



Paul Harris Fellow Award



Meredith Smillie shares an overview of the Paul Harris Fellow Awards



Catherine Bass gives the introduction for **Dom Bunker** to receive her Paul Harris Fellow Award.



A very surprised **Dom** thanks **Catherine**.



Dom's support group surprising her! Best friend Paula, her father James, and husband Ben.



Congratulations, **Dom**!

District 6290 Midweek Connections

Your quick stop for timely reminders, upcoming events, important deadlines, and valuable Rotary resources.

We know your time is valuable, so we'll bring you the information you need in one convenient place, helping you stay informed, connected, and ready to create lasting impact throughout our district.

*Published Every Other Wednesday to keep Rotarians informed about district events, deadlines, opportunities, and Rotary news



Registration is now open to join your fellow Rotarians on a Sunset Cruise in September.

Muskegon - September 2, 2026
- [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Announcements



President Roger requests Rotarian support for JCI Greater Muskegon's Parties in the Park on August 21.



Carla Flandes reminds the club of Harvest Fest on October 22

ReWine Meeting Schedule
5:00pm social time - meeting starts at 5:15pm

Thursday August 20 at Motu Wine Bar 1208 8th St.

RSVP by Wednesday at 5pm prior to each meeting by contacting Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com

(Total # attending including guests)



Tennille Woodward asks for volunteers for Kid's Food Basket as school is around the corner and mentions Muskegon will be hosting a mini Life Leadership Conference in the fall for Muskegon County students.



Dave Alexander invites everyone to join in on the Muskegon Lake Celebration on August 15 - celebrating the lake being delisted from the EPA's Area of Concern list.



Celebrate Muskegon Lake's Remarkable Comeback.

One Day. Two Great Events.

AUGUST 15, 2026

Sun, Fun, and a Lake Restored 9 AM – 2 PM Celebrate Muskegon Lake's comeback with family fun, food, activities, and waterfront adventures. 📍 Grand Trunk Pavilion	Back to the Lake: An 80s Celebration 7 PM – 10 PM Celebrate the decade when restoration began, with an 80s-themed night of music, dancing, food and fun! 📍 S.S. Milwaukee Clipper
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BIT.LY/MUSKEGONLAKECELEBRATION

Click the link below for additional information

<https://bit.ly/MuskegonLakeCelebration>



Laura Cunningham asks for support in back-to-school shopping for youth exchange students.

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 26.

Volunteers will meet promptly at 7:30am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 10am, 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, estherricco@hotmail.com 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!

Rotary Fundraiser

Dakidd Bar-B-Que & Catering is fundraising for the Rotary Club Of Muskegon

Rotary Club Of Muskegon

A portion of all proceeds will be donated to the Rotary Club Of Muskegon

Location
Pincrest Bar & Lanes
6571 Airline Rd, Fruitport, MI 49415

Time 5:30pm-8:30pm **Date** August 13, 2026

Menu Items

Brisket & Mac Bowls \$20
Baby Back Rib Dinners \$20 (potato salad & baked beans Included)
Pork & Mac Bowls \$16
Pulled Pork Sandwiches w/ Slaw \$16
Potato Salad
Sweet Baked Beans

This Week's Birthday



Scott Timmer August 11



Muskegon Rotary Board

Roger Morgenstern, President
 Lisa Tyler, President-Elect
 Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga & Arlen-Dean Gaddy, President Nominees
 Dave Alexander, Past President
 Kimberly Taylor, Treasurer
 Joanie Smith, Secretary
 Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

Directors:

Esther Ricco	Lisa Kraus
Melissa Moore	Samantha Scott
Dimitri Poland	Kelly DeVos
Martha Fohlbrook	John Selmon

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



Marcia Hovey-Wright shares the exciting news that you can grab a "Love Lives Here" yard sign for free!



Kat Hyder's last Rotary meeting before welcoming baby Hyder!

RIM Reporting Team

Editors: Susan Besteman, Jackie Farrar, and Ginny Sprague

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

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, Brock Johnson, and Emily Morgenstern

Muskegon Rising Podcast S3E15: Scott Wilbur – MOTIV Bowling



We are proud to highlight another great success story born right here in our community.

Scott Wilbur, the visionary behind MOTIV Bowling, recently sat down with Muskegon Rising to discuss the incredible growth of his company in Roosevelt Park. From humble beginnings to leading the global market in advanced manufacturing, Scott shares how integrity, local partnerships, and a passion for community are fueling their continued success.

Learn how this Muskegon-based powerhouse is competing and winning on the world stage.

Listen: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/269729/episodes/19584202-scott-wilbur-motiv-bowling>

Watch: https://youtu.be/dQtX2chTw_I?si=ZFDRniWBnZvXclHP

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Rotary in Action Rita Caviness



Rita Caviness shares how a life dedicated to serving survivors of human trafficking led her naturally to the mission of Rotary. As Director of Education and Community Engagement for the Hope Project, she works alongside victims of sexual exploitation, helping them move from victim to survivor to thriving. Rita explains how Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self aligns with her daily work and praises the club for turning compassion into action through local and international service. She also offers an important challenge to fellow Rotarians: learn to recognize the signs of human trafficking and exploitation so communities can respond with knowledge, awareness, and hope. This inspiring conversation highlights the power of service, education, and working together to create lasting change.

Watch the full video [here](#)