

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 December 11, 2025

December 18, 2025, 12-1:30pm — Braised Short Ribs
No Meeting - Holiday Party with Music from some West Michigan Symphony Members

What's Coming

- Dec 18 – Rotarian & Guests
 Holiday Lunch
- Dec 25 – No Meeting
- Jan 1 – No Meeting
- Jan 8 – Snurfer Returns to Muskegon

Upcoming Birthdays

- Dec 18 Tennille Woodward
- Dec 19 Jason Smith
- Dec 20 David Hogan
- Dec 20 David Mendendorp
- Dec 20 Troy Wasserman
- Dec 21 Jules Terry
- Dec 21 Michael Weesies
- Dec 23 Danielle Risley
- Dec 25 Martha Fohlbrook
- Dec 27 Kelly DeVos
- Dec 28 Craig Wikander
- Dec 28 Tom Livezey
- Jan 5 Bethann Egan
- Jan 7 Paula Martin

Caring Connections Fund

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



Stage Manager

This Week

Emily Morgenstern

Reflector

This Week

Brad Hastings



President Dave is unable to attend next week's Jingle Mingle holiday lunch gathering, so he broke out his Christmas tie for this meeting

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 Brandon Turnbull
 Melissa Moore Tom Palmer
 Arlen-Dean Gaddy Dimitri Poland
 Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga Lisa Kraus

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

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
 RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore
 RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

Visitors & Guests



Bill Loxterman and his guest, soon to be Rotarian Chris Nance



Kelly DeVos introduces her guest Tarah Buchan



Heidi Sytsema introduces her guest, daughter Anna Sytsema

Muskegon Rotary Dec. 11th
 YouTube Video: [CLICK HERE](#)



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke introduces her guests, Aaron and Dr. Jennifer King



Claire Root Benson introduces her guests; Muskegon High School Interact students Neola Cantue and Neve McGinn. They provided an update on some of the community projects they are undertaking



Tom Palmer and his guest, Chuck Wahr



Marty Sytsema makes sure our guests from Orchard View High School smile for the RIM camera. From left are senior Emilee Secrest and high school Principal, Samantha Wilson



This Week's Program: Annual Muskegon Rotary Club Meeting

Presenter: **President Dave Alexander**

RIM Reporter: **Kathy Moore**



President **Dave Alexander** officially called the Muskegon Rotary Club Annual Meeting to order. He then presented the slate of officers and directors for Rotary Year 2026-2027 (beginning July 1, 2026). The Club's Nominating Committee sought those interested in board of director positions and the presidency in 2028-2029. The Committee recommended a slate to the Board of Directors, which unanimously voted to forward the slate to the membership. The slate of officers and directors were listed on the screen, along with copies placed on the tables, listed in the previous RIM, and sent to members via email.

The Slate of Officers –

President: **Roger Morgenstern**

President Elect: **Lisa Tyler**

Co-president Nominees:

Arlen Dean-Gaddy &

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga,

Treasurer: **Kim Taylor**

Past President: **Dave Alexander**

Slate of New Board of Directors: **Martha Fohlbrook** – 3-year term, **John Selmon** 2-year term, and **Kelly DeVos** 2-year term. Dave explained that the approval of the amendments to the bylaws at the previous meeting enabled the Club to elect co-president nominees. He also stated that nominations can be made by members from the floor; then asked (nicely and thrice) if there were any other nominations. None were voiced. Nominations were closed and the membership ratified the slate by acclamation. Dave joyfully exclaimed, "Congratulations to those who have stepped up for service. Thank you for your service!"

The President called on Assistant Sargent-At-Arms, **Kevin Donovan** to police the audience (to the background tune of "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch") and issue fees and fines according to his whim. He was fining members for everything from not wearing a Rotary pin to wearing a coat he didn't particularly like all in good fun. Monies collected totaled \$235 and benefited the Salvation Army.



Continuing with the annual meeting, Dave then provided a brief overview of six-months into

the Rotary year. His overall theme this year was hyper-local looking at time and talent and financially supporting our core programs. Impact, reach, engage, and adapt are the four areas of focus for the Rotary action plan.



Mary Anne Gorman, as co-chair of the Membership Council, kicked off an Annual Meeting tradition of updates from Council and Committee chairs. As clearly seen in this photo and heard in the reports, we not only have the largest Club in District 6290 but our 260 members are very engaged in improving our community!

[Click here](#) to see some of the memories of the community work done this year with this video produced by **Mike Vogas!**

Then, two-minute updates from committee chairs or co-chairs on the work of their committees.

Committees include:

- *Membership
- *Rotary In Motion (RIM) Newsletter
- *Engagement & Connection
- *DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion)
- *Literacy
- *Rotaract
- *Program
- *Peacebuilder
- *Social Media
- *Youth Exchange
- *Muskegon Rotary Foundation
- *Environmental Sustainability
- *Interact
- *Social
- *

To see the full video presentation [click here](#).

Induction Logan Metcalf



Meet the newest Rotarian in the world, **Logan Metcalf**, flanked by his sponsor, **Dimitri Poland**, and **President Dave**.

Logan Metcalf is the newest advisor at Braeburn Wealth Management and holds a BBA in Economics from Grand Valley State University. He grew up in Montague and, after completing his studies at GVSU, is excited to be back in the Muskegon area. Returning home has strengthened his desire to get involved and give back to the community that shaped him. His volunteer work with the Community Food Club in Grand Rapids sparked a lasting appreciation for service and local collaboration; something he looks forward to continuing through Rotary.

Logan was drawn to financial advising because he enjoys helping people feel more confident and organized in their financial lives. As he settles back into Muskegon, he's eager to build both professional and personal roots. He's especially excited to participate in Rotary service projects, learn from fellow members, and contribute meaningfully to initiatives throughout the area.

Outside of work, Logan enjoys staying active through fitness, snowboarding, and a variety of sports. He also enjoys chess, traveling, and spending time along the lakeshore.

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,
& Sue Samanigo

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, &

Roger Morgenstern

If interested in joining the RIM team, [click here](#) to email the editors. 😊

Spotlight Video Marty Sytsema



Marty Sytsema highlighted his delight and experience with coordinating and introducing our weekly student guests. He informed us that many of the students are nervous initially, but Marty calms their nerves a bit by letting them know that *“Rotarians love hearing what the students are up to.”* He described our Club to them by saying *“Rotary is like National Honor Society for adults.”* Rotarians are very welcoming and helpful to the students. People in the profession almost immediately connects, mentors, and/or shares their life experiences with the students. In summary, Marty stated *“Rotarians are true role models for our kids...and the students really respect that. Those kids really enjoy the experience.”*

Watch the video [here](#).

Announcements

Final Brave Rotarian Announced



Meredith Smillie thanks the last person eliminated in our latest Brave Rotarians contest, **Ginny Sprague**. That means **Doug Wood** is "the last Rotarian standing" and receives a Paul Harris Fellow, he can keep or bestow the fellowship (with a value of \$1,000 to the Rotary International Foundation) to someone else. Each of the 10 "Brave Rotarians" contributed \$100 to the Rotary International Foundation. Over the last several weeks, we eliminated nine of them, but we thank them for their generosity! If you have questions about the RI Foundation, please see **Meredith Smillie, Ginny Sprague, Nancy McCarthy** or other members who regularly share with us the RI Foundation's good works.

Rotary ReWine Schedule

1st and 3rd Thursdays each month
5:00-5:15pm Social time
5:15pm Meeting start time at the Core Plaza (Vault)

NO MEETING January 1st, 2026

RSVPs are due by Wednesday at 5pm for the Thursday meeting.

Contact **Kaytie Drake** at kaytieely@aol.com to RSVP (total # of people including any guests you are bringing) or if you have any further questions.

Holiday Lunch – Dec. 18



Thursday, December 18th, Rotary will serve a holiday celebration luncheon. President-Elect **Roger Morgenstern** will be hosting with entertainment from some members of the West Michigan Symphony.

This will NOT be a formal meeting but a social time to share fellowship with Rotarians, their significant others, and guests. Spouses or significant others will be guests of the club at no fee; however, all other guests will be charged a \$20 fee.



Cards or Visitors Welcome

Nancy McCarthy let the Club know that our Sergeant at Arms **Ed Hendrickson** is continuing to recover from his recent health challenges. He's now at Harbor Terrace, Room 111, and welcomes visitors! Harbor Terrace is downtown at 60 Viridian Dr. Muskegon, MI 49440.



Red Robin® will give
**20% OF FOOD SALES*
 BACK TO**

**ROTARY SATELLITE CLUB OF
 MUSKEGON – REWINE**

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to
 your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS
 5785 Harvey St., Norton, MI 49444
 January 13, 2026*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at redrobin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find this location to view hours. Donation based on all eligible net sales and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering, all select locations, 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer valid if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.



**ReWine Satellite Club Dine to
 Donate Fundraiser!**

Get ready to enjoy some great food—and support a great cause! Join the ReWine Satellite Club as we rally support to help our Interact and Rotaract clubs grow, lead, and make an impact. Your participation fuels service projects that uplift local communities, supports international service trips, and builds essential leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Together, we can empower these amazing young leaders and champion the work they're doing—near and far!

Fundraiser will be held on:
**Tuesday, January 13, 2026
 (All Day) at Red Robin
 5785 Harvey St, Norton Shores**
 (20% of your food purchase will go towards this fundraiser)

Eat in person or order online. For orders to count towards the fundraiser, supporters must:

- Show the fundraiser flyer, email, or social post to your server in the restaurant, or
- Add the fundraiser to your cart ("Fundraiser To-Go") if you're ordering online (find this at the bottom of the menu categories on our online ordering homepage or mobile app).

Thank you for your support! Contact **Esther Ricco** or **Kaytie Drake** for additional questions.

**Muskegon Rising Podcast
 S2E49: Dr. Dick Kamp - Step Up
 Muskegon**



Join us for a powerful new episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast as we sit down with Dr. Dick Kamps, a retired surgeon whose second act is changing lives in our community.

After a long career caring for patients, Dr. Kamps and his wife Lynn founded Step Up Muskegon, a nonprofit that helps young adults transition out of the foster care system. Many of these youth face adulthood without stable housing, mentors, or the basic life skills most of us take for granted. Step Up gives them a safe place to land, along with the support and accountability they need to build independence and hope.

This conversation is a reminder that service does not end at retirement. Sometimes it only begins.

Listen to the full story and learn how Step Up Muskegon is transforming futures right here at home.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18326998-dr-dick-kamp-step-up-muskegon>

CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS

Honduras Service Trip

This year's Chispa Project Library Build Honduras trip is June 21-28. The cost (minus airfare) is \$850 per person. This is the third year our Club and others, including the Grand Haven Club, have assisted Chispa in creating new libraries in Honduras. Contact **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** if you are interested.



**Please welcome potential
 new members:**

Chris Nance who is the mayor of North Muskegon. Chris is sponsored by **Bill Loxterman** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Chris will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Morgan Witmer who is in Development & Office Admin with the Lakeshore Museum Center. Morgan is sponsored by **Melissa Horton** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Morgan will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Denise Sabo who is sponsored by **DJ Hilson** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Denise will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Jill Ryan who is the Executive Director of Freshwater Future. Jill is sponsored by **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Jill will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Marquis Childers Jr. who is an ADA Specialist with Disability Network WM. Marquis is sponsored by **Doug Wood** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Marquis will be inducted in the next few weeks.

**Muskegon Rotary
 Foundation Grants**

We are happy to announce the 2025-26 round of Muskegon Rotary Foundation Grants. These grants are available to Muskegon area non-profits for activities and projects that are consistent with the Muskegon Rotary Principles and Priorities. The Grant Guidelines and Timeline are attached and can be found on our Website - MuskegonRotary.org - in the Our Club tab. Please contact us at muskegonrotary@gmail.com with any questions or clarifications.

Please pass the word on to any Muskegon area non-profits who may need support in the good work they are doing in our community. The Letters of Inquiry are due on Friday, December 19, 2025, at 5:00. If the letters are accepted a completed grant application will be due on Friday, January 16, 2026.

Neal Fitness Center Membership prices are increasing slightly from Jan. 1, **but NOT FOR our PARTNERS!**



- We are still offering our \$50/month rate for our community partner members! From January, this is a \$15/month discount.
- Add-on Family Memberships and Kids Club Memberships are the same rate, as well!
- Discounts for facility rentals are still available: bookings for pool parties, company team-building events, and more fill up quickly. Book a unique event space for your next gathering at NFC and the Boys & Girls Club facility!

Social Committee Upcoming Events in 2026

January 29th—Evening Happy Hour
Thursday, Jan. 29th at 5:30-7pm at the Delta with hors d'oeuvres and a 20–30-minute comedian show.

March—Visit to the Kids' Food Basket new facility.

June—Muskegon Clipper baseball car-load party.

June 30th--Aquastar boat tour of the Muskegon shoreline.

August—Tour the Corner's new facility.

September—Tour of the Milwaukee Clipper boat.

Are These Your Gloves?



Contact **J. Griffith** if these are your gloves or if you may know who these belong to.

HOLIDAY VACAY

POOL & PLAY DAYS

Mon 22nd
 'Broadway Babies'
 Sing-a-Long
 hosted by
PLAY Muskegon
 1pm
 Open Swim
 1-3pm

Tue 23rd
 Holiday
 Fun-n-Drum
 with Nikki
 11am
 Open Swim
 11-1pm

Fri 26th
 4th Friday
 Fun Night:
 Open Swim
 & Open Gym
 5-7pm

Mon 29th
 Yoga for Kids
 with Kia
 1pm
 Open Swim
 1-3pm

Wed 31st
 All NFC Use!
 Adult Fitness+Kids Club
 9am-1pm
 Open Swim
 1-3pm

Fitness classes and workout zones for adults, babysitting service for 6mo-11yo, Open Swim for all! See schedule for fitness options.

5-Day Pass
 \$50/child+adult
 add-ons: \$15/family member
1-DAY Pass
 \$15/child+adult
 NFC Members are Free
 Kids & adults stick together for all the fun (except 12/31*)

EST. 2021 NEAL FITNESS CENTER