

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 4, 2025

Next Meeting (December 11, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Chicken Parmesan at the Delta
Program Topic – No formal program—Annual Club Meeting

What's Coming

- Dec 11 – No program: Election of Officers, Inductions, & Committee Chairs Updates
- Dec 18 – Rotarian & Guests Holiday Lunch
- Dec 25 – No Meeting—Happy Holidays!

Upcoming Birthdays

- Dec 13 **Melissa Moore**
- Dec 14 **Arlen Dean-Gaddy**
- Dec 17 **Enrique Guterrez**

Caring Connections Fund

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



Greeters This Week

Martha Fohlbrook & Alex Fonseca

Stage Manager This Week

Andrew Zahrt

Reflector This Week

Emily Morgenstern



RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Mark Alpher
 RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
 RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

Visitors & Guests



Susan Besteman with her guest **Nick VanVorst**, Mortgage Loan Officer with Northern Mortgage

Muskegon Rotary Dec. 4th
 YouTube Video: [CLICK HERE](#)



New North Muskegon Mayor **Chris Nance** was guest of an excited Ohio State Buckeye fan sporting his favorite hat, **Bill Loxterman**



Rob Taylor introduced his guest **David Strate**



The crowd cheered loudest when **Marty Sytsema** introduced our student guests from Oakridge High School! Counselor **Kurt Kiesgen** introduced two fantastic seniors, **Savana Foster** and **Olivia Rivenbark**



Dr. Emma Schroeder with her guest **Andria Yost**, Early Act Advisor



This Week's Program:

**The Annis Water Resources Institute:
Life After De-listing**



Annis Water Resources Institute Update

Presenter: Stuart Jones

Introduced by: **Melissa Horton**

RIM Reporter: **Meredith Smillie**

The Annis Water Resources Institute is a department of Grand Valley State University.

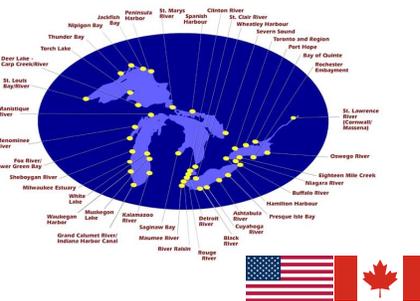


They focus on freshwater resources and concentrating on research, education and preservation of freshwater resources. They are located right downtown in Muskegon next to Heritage Landing and the LST. There are 12 GVSU faculty located at AWRI and approximately 50 staff, in addition to 15 graduate students and 20-30 undergraduate students. There are two very large vessels that are utilized for research, education and outreach.



Dr. Stuart Jones was invited to provide our Rotary Club on his experience with the Annis Water Resources Institute. Dr. Jones is the new executive director of the Annis Water Resources Institute and is a professor at Grand Valley State University. The focus of the presentation was life after delisting for Muskegon Lake. What does it mean to “delist” Muskegon Lake? To remove a lake from a list of impaired or polluted bodies of water after it has been successfully restored to a healthy state. This process involves meeting specific criteria for restoring habitats, cleaning up pollution, and resolving any "beneficial use impairments" (BUIs) like beach closings or fish consumption advisories.

Areas Of Concern



In the late 80's, the United States and Canada joined forces to address areas of concern with freshwater areas that were listed as contaminated. Muskegon Lake was added as an area of concern, primarily due to early and heavy logging along the Muskegon Lake Watershed. As positive as this impact was economically, it did leave Muskegon Lake contaminated. There are 14 Benefits Usage Impacts and Muskegon Lake hit 9 of these BUI's. Some of these included: beach closings, degradation of Benthos, degradation of aesthetics, etc.

BUIs for Muskegon Lake

Impairments	
Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption	Beach Closings
Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations	Groundwater Contamination
Degradation of Benthos	Degradation of Aesthetics
Restrictions on Dredging	Eutrophication and Undesirable Algae
Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat	

In 2025, Muskegon Lake was delisted as an Area of Concern. This was in partnership with GVSU, EPA, NOA, EGLE and WMSRDC and Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership, with significant funding from several federal, state and local entities. Significant changes in wastewater and other efforts significantly reduced the levels of chlorophyll in the lake. As of September, Muskegon Lake has improved water quality, enhances civic pride and

Induction

Trevor Friedeberg

Trevor Friedeberg has the privilege of serving as President and CEO of Greater Muskegon Economic Development (GMED), where he leads strategic efforts to strengthen the Muskegon region's economy through business retention and expansion, community revitalization, and workforce development. Under his leadership, GMED partners with local, regional, and state stakeholders to foster a more competitive and resilient economic environment for businesses and residents alike.

Prior to his role at GMED, Trevor served as President and CEO of Forge ECI, the regional economic development organization for East Central Indiana. There, he successfully unified eight counties under a shared vision for growth, advancing major initiatives through Indiana's READI program and other public-private investment strategies. Earlier in his career, Trevor worked with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), collaborating with communities and employers across the state to drive capital investment and job creation through key business development and site readiness programs. He earned his BS from Michigan State University as well as his MBA From the Eli Broad College of Business at MSU. Trevor is sponsored by **Rich Houtteman**.



Rich Houtteman introduces the newest Rotarian in the world at the meeting, Trevor Friedeberg



Announcements

By-law Amendments Approved Allowing Co-Presidency Option

The below proposed by-law amendments to allow for co-presidents was approved by the Muskegon Rotary Club Members at the December 4th, 2025, meeting. A final membership vote at the club lunch meeting on Thursday Dec. 4, noon at The Delta approved the by-law amendments that were distributed to members via notifications at the Nov. 13th and 20th meetings, club coordinator email distribution Nov. 17th and Dec. 1st, Nov. 13th and 20th RIM Newsletters, and President **Dave Alexander's** club email on Dec. 3rd.

Muskegon Rotary Club by-law amendments approved by the board 11/11/2025 and approved through membership vote at the Club meeting on 12/4/2025. Amended language is underlined.

Article 2— Board

Section 1— The governing body of this Club shall be the Board of Directors, consisting of thirteen members of this Club, namely eight directors, elected in accordance with Article 3, Section 1, of these Bylaws, and the president, president-elect, president-nominee, treasurer, and the immediate past-president. With co-presidents, there would be 14 members of the board and in the case of a tie vote, the outcome of that vote would be determined by the immediate past-president.

Article 4— Duties of Officers

Section 1— President/Co-Presidents

- (a) It shall be the duty of the president to preside at meetings of the Club and the Board and to perform other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of president.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall have the option of nominating, and the members shall have the option of electing, two (2) co-presidents in any Rotary year. Each co-president must meet the requirements of the office of president, and both will move through the progression of president nominee, president elect, president and past president. Each co-president will be a member of the Club Board of Directors through the presidential progression with each having individual votes on the board. The sharing of presidential duties will be determined by the co-presidents between themselves but may be subject to approval by the Club Board of Directors, and any disagreements between the co-presidents shall be resolved by the Club Board of Directors.

Only Two Brave Rotarians Remain

Meredith Smillie, with **Mike Vogas'** assistance, spun the wheel again this week to eliminate two more Brave Rotarians from the "Where in Muskegon is **Dave Alexander?**" contest. Unfortunately, **Mike Vogas** and **Ron Koehler** were the two eliminated leaving two final "Brave Rotarians" left: **Ginny Sprague** and **Doug Wood**. 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.



Honduras Service Trip— June 2026



Linda Juarez with the World Services Committee went on the Honduras trip with some Rotarians and guests in February. At one of the day trips, they



visited an artist community where she purchased the picture to the left. The artist is **Denis Barrios**, from Valle de Angeles near

Tegucigalpa Honduras. Linda encouraged all to attend this year's Chispa Project Library Build Honduras trip on 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.



Annual Meeting – Dec. 11

The club annual meeting will be on Thursday, December 11th when the membership will vote on a slate of officers and new board of directors who will take office on July 1, 2026.

The Nominating Committee has provided this slate of officers and new members of the board of directors for the 2026-27 Rotary year. The Board of Directors has presented this slate for the Dec. 11 election.

The Slate of Officers and new Directors terms starting July 1, 2026

President: **Roger Morgenstern**
 President Elect: **Lisa Tyler**
 Co-president Nominees: **Arlen Dean-Gaddy & Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga**
 Treasurer: **Kim Taylor**
 Past President: **Dave Alexander**

Board of Directors

Martha Fohlbrook -- 3-year term replacing **Brandon Turnbull**
John Selmon -- 2-year term replacing **Arlen Dean-Gaddy**
Kelly DeVos -- 2-year term replacing **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga**

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)

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.



Muskegon Rising 100th episode!!!



100th Episode Published

Congrats from Buzzsprout

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E48: Dan Skoglung - Muskegon Rescue Mission



Join us in celebrating the 100th episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast!

Thank you to every guest who has shared their story, every listener who has tuned in, and every host who has stepped behind the microphone over the past two years. Most of all, thank you to producer Mike Vogas, whose behind-the-scenes work has made all 100 episodes possible.

For this episode, we're joined by Dan Skoglung, Executive Director of the Muskegon Rescue Mission, for a powerful conversation about how the organization supports families through housing, trauma care, childcare, employment services, and partnerships that make real change possible across Muskegon.

Here's to 100 episodes of sharing the stories that move our community forward and many more to come.

Listen now at: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18288545-dan-skoglung-muskegon-rescue-mission>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E47: Lisa Tyler – United Way of the Lakeshore



United Way touches more lives in our community than most people realize.

In S2E47 of Muskegon Rising, Kendrah Robinson sits down with United Way of the Lakeshore President and CEO Lisa Tyler for a conversation that shows just how far their impact reaches. Lisa talks about the work happening right now in our region— from expanding early childhood literacy with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, to supporting ALICE families who are one crisis away from falling behind, to coordinating housing efforts through the Homeless Continuum of Care Network. She also shares how 211 connects residents to real help fast and why volunteer opportunities like Day of Caring and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program are making a difference year-round.

If you want to understand the challenges facing local families and the people working every day to meet them, this episode is a must-listen.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18253096-lisa-tyler-united-way-of-the-lakeshore>

New Member Orientation

The next New Member Orientation is being moved a week later than usual to Dec. 10. It will still be at the Shoreline Inn from 8-9:30 a.m. Contact **Doug Wood** if you have questions.

Interact Insider



The Orchard View Middle School Interact program met to discuss the next steps of their community service project. After researching local nonprofit organizations, the students chose Family Promise of the Lakeshore. They divided into teams to collect nonperishable food items for the FP pantry next week. All grades and staff will be invited to donate. The students will organize and transport the food to Family Promise. Muskegon Rotarians are welcome to support them as well.

Thank you to these OVMS students and their advisors, Tara Garrans and Ashley Keena, for their leadership of the newest Interact program in Muskegon!

This group also helped with the Dune Harbor Park Service Day on November 21st! See the photos on page 8!

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](https://www.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.

Dune Harbor Park Planting – November 21, 2025

Great efforts and a gorgeous day for planting at Dune Harbor Park on November 21st (before the snow)! Thank you to the Muskegon Rotary Environmental Committee, Orchard View Interact Club, Muskegon Interact Club, Interactors from Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change and all the volunteers!



Orchard View Interact, Muskegon High School Interact, and Interactors from Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change



New Members' Social a Success!

Tuesday, November 18th, Rotary had a new member social gathering at the Lumberman's Vault. It was a fun event with more people showing up than expected. Discussions included committees, visiting other clubs, weird things that happen at the meetings, and getting to know one another.

Who was there?

Dimitri Poland, Jane Clingman Scott, Tom Palmer, Brock Johnson, Megan Bayard, Mary Anne Gorman, Jay Griffith, Jeff Dana, Dave Alexander, Roger Morgenstern, Bernard Brown, Dennis Atkinson, Amy Deming, Dion Stumpo, and Melissa Horton.



Bill Loxterman is smiling this year while distressing **Roger Morgenstern** with the Ohio State win; however, this RIM Editor still has this previous photo.... Was it from 2024, '23, '22, '21, or '20?



November 2023 😊
(I'm not even a Michigan fan but love having some fun!)



HOLIDAY Vaca POOL & PLAY DAYS

5-DAY PASS
\$50/child+adult
add-ons: \$18/family member

1-DAY PASS
\$15/child+adult
NFC Members are Free
Kids & adults stick together for all the fun (except 12/31)

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 8am-1pm
Open Swim 1-3pm

NEEL FITNESS CENTER

Neel 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!

A JAZZY CHRISTMAS
PAUL KELLER QUINTET

NEW SHOW ADDED!
DEC 13, 4:00 PM

A Jazzy Christmas

Paul Keller Quintet

Saturday, December 13 | 4:00 pm
| The Block

Due to demand, this 4 pm show has been added!

The Michigan-based Paul Keller Quintet is dedicated to delighting audiences with their unique brand of high-energy, top-shelf jazz and swing. They're back at The Block for an afternoon of holiday jazz featuring piano, vocals and vibraphone.

[Click here for the link to tickets!](#)