

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

January 29, 2026

**February 5, 2026, 12 – 1:30pm — Lasagna at the Delta
Program – Access Health Community Collaboration**

What's Coming

Feb 5 – Access Health Comm. Collab.

Feb 12 – Kids Belong

Feb 19 – Muskegon Rising

Upcoming Birthdays



Caring

Connections Fund

[Click here to donate](#)

Greeters This Week

Cynthia Maynard

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographers – Roger
Morgenstern & Susan Besteman
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

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)

Next meeting is Feb 5th
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.



Cynthia Maynard greeted Rotarians and guests for our special evening event.



Kat Hyder, Brock Hyder, Dr. Emma Schroeder, and Pamela Babbitt were among the first to arrive!

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](#):**

This Week's Program: Special Evening Event



Presenter: Comedian Rick Vuyst
"Thank you very mulch"

Introduced by: **Tim Lipan**

RIM Reporter: **Susan Besteman**

Thursday evening was filled with fun networking and fantastic entertainment. Comedian, Rick Vuyst (pictured above on the right), better known as the "thank you very mulch guy" was introduced by **Tim Lipan** (pictured above on the left). Rick had the crowd laughing with his great clean comedy including some jokes that would be categorized as "dad jokes." He asked if we heard about the termite walking into the bar and asking if the bar is tender? Another memorable laugh included his comment to a guy who asked him if a particular bug spray was good; Rick's response, "No, it'll kill them."

Being a life-long gardener and the owner of Flowerland, he was also able to give the crowd some advice,



such as instructions to “talk to our plants” and occasionally, to eat a salad in front of them. Another suggestion is to send a get-well-soon card to those who feel their water bill is too high.

For more information about Rick, check out his website:

<https://thankyouverymulch.com/about/>



RIM Reporting Team

Editors: Susan Besteman,

Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,
& Sue Samaniego

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, Brock

Johnson, Emily Morgenstern,
& Roger Morgenstern

Visitors & Guests

Parker Aerts—Dawson Chapman

Bernard Brown—Mary Brown

Cathy Brubaker-Clarke—

Doug Clarke

Jennifer Bruin—Boyd Bruin

Dominique Bunker—Ben Bunker

Megan Byard-Karaba—Al Karaba

Irma Carney—Michael Carney

Jane Clingman-Scott—Greg Scott

Jackie Farrar—Matt Farrar

Marty Ferriby—Roger Rapoport

Jim Fisher—Kippy & Michael Ellis

Lisa Gatti-Arnold--Bob

Brad Hastings—Ashley Arnouts

Kathy Hegedus—Dave Hegedus

Kaitlin Hermanson—

Michael Chiamonti

DJ Hilson—Tricia Hilson

Susan Houseman—Jon

Katrina Hyder—Brock Hyder

Lisa Kraus—Ryan Cummins

Bill Loxterman--Kenna

Cynthia Maynard—Evan Ewing

Kathy Moore—Marvin Moore

Melissa Moore—Tom Moore

Walter Mrotz—LouAnn

John Noling—Sue Noling

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga—

Dan Rinsema-Sybenga

Kendrah Robinson—TeAngleo

Robinson (Da Kidd BBQ)

Scott Roodvoets—Liz Witzler

Jill Ryan—Lori Lind

Asaline Scott—Aniesa Williams

Danielle Smith-Walker—Jarvis
Walker

John Snider--Kathy

Jamie Sowa—Chris Sowa

Rob Taylor—Priscilla Taylor

Doug Wood—Kim Wood



January 29, 2026 – Rotary Evening Social Event



Announcements



Just a couple more photos... 😊



Giving kids their first books

In Spanish, "chispas" means "spark," which is exactly our goal: to inspire and empower Honduran students with access to books.

Chispa Project works to create school libraries and spark a passion for learning that will grow and be nurtured through a community driven approach. Since 2016, over 70,000 books have been delivered to more than 100 schools and organizations.

What's next? Read about the NEXT CHAPTER for 2026, as the Honduran school year starts in February. We have 10 new libraries planned, and we'll continue supporting our 2025 schools for another whole year to enhance the sustainability of their Chispa libraries.

Honduras Service Trip

Join **President Elect Roger Morgenstern**, other members of our Club, and Grand Haven Rotarians as they travel to the capital city of Honduras to work on our third library project through the Chispa Project. They will be at the Rolando Roll Elementary School in Tegucigalpa, Honduras from June 21-28 and will work to set up the library, including painting murals, assembling shelves and organizing 700 Books for 321 Students and 18 Teachers.

The cost is \$850, plus airfare (total estimate at \$1,250). They're looking for 5 or 6 more individuals to go, including students. Our Club has committed \$300 to assist students in raising money, plus another \$300 grant from WEHOP, a consortium of Lakeshore Rotary Clubs doing service projects in Central America. Please see **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** if you'd like more information. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 15!

Coffee Connect Feb 18th

YOU'RE INVITED TO:

COFFEE CONNECT

A New Member Rotary Event

NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR SPONSORS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

2026 DATES:
FEBRUARY 18
APRIL 15
JUNE 10
SEPTEMBER 9

RSVP: MELISSA
 LAKESHORE ROTARIANS

8:00-9:00 A.M.

MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF HISTORY & SCIENCE
 430 W. CLAY AVE
 MUSKEGON, MI 49440

Annual District Raffle

The annual District 6290 50/50 Raffle

is underway led this year by Raffle Chairperson, our own, **Brandon Turnbull**. Brandon and **President Dave** will roll out sale of the \$20 tickets as the month progresses. Tickets need to be purchased by the end of February. More details to come.

Joint Service Project Muskegon & GR Rotary Clubs – Feb 21st

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Please join us for a great Joint Service Project Saturday morning, Feb. 21, at Feeding America West Michigan's headquarters, 3070 Shaffer Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512. We will be working alongside our partners from the Grand Rapids Rotary Club in Feeding America's Reclamation Area, which may include sorting fresh produce, quality control and repacking bulk product.

We'll arrive at Feeding America at 9 a.m. (carpooling is encouraged!). After a brief orientation, we'll work from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and then enjoy fellowship over a catered lunch at Feeding America's facility from noon-1:30pm.



Participating volunteers are asked to bring a non-perishable item to the service event such as peanut butter, canned meats, beans, canned veggies, canned entrees, canned fruits, mac & cheese, breakfast bars, oatmeal, cereal, or rice.

Because space is limited to 35 people from each Club, we're asking, if possible, that only Rotarians and Interact members ages 16 or older sign up. Click the link above or scan the QR Code to sign up! You need to fill out the Feeding America Waiver Form too—Print out the last page (page 7) of this RIM and email or bring the form back to **Roger Morgenstern**.

Interact Insider



Muskegon High School Interact Club has completed its second annual fundraiser to purchase and stock bags for Muskegon folks experiencing homelessness, in partnership with the United Way Homeless Continuum of Care, ahead of their 'point in time' count and outreach, January 28th. In 2025, our small club was able to provide 17 stocked backpacks for this effort, and this year, our funds went further due to some donated backpacks, so we were able to complete 30 stocked bags for our neighbors going through homelessness. The bags included dental and hygiene items, some foods, socks, gloves, tent repair patches, blankets, and more! Pictures include our club members and United Way staff and volunteers combining our purchased items with community drive items for the same efforts, on the afternoon of January 27th. Our club has a particular heart for helping their neighbors in need.



ReWine Updates

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



Adopt-A-Highway Program Looking for Volunteers

Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, April 18. 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 and she can provide you with details. Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!

March Madness Brave Rotarian Contest



Welcome to our March Madness Brave Rotarians contest. **Meredith Smillie** is looking for 64 Rotarians to participate in this year's contest. \$100 saves your spot in the madness. Not only could you win a coveted Paul Harris Fellow, but you will also fulfill your recommended donation to The Rotary Foundation. Sign-ups will continue through March 12, 2026; as the brackets kick off on March 16, 2026. Payment is expected prior to March 12. You can pay with cash, check (made out to The Rotary Foundation) or use the QR code listed here to pay via credit card. Please see Meredith for any questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BACAF28A2F58-62039851-brave>



FEEDING AMERICA
West Michigan

YOUR LOCAL
FOOD BANK

JOINT SERVICE PROJECT
&
SOCIAL GATHERING

WITH THE
ROTARY CLUB OF MUSKEGON

AT
FEEDING AMERICA WEST MICHIGAN
3070 SHAEFER AVE SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49512

Saturday, Feb. 21

9:00 am
Arrival, Welcome & Orientation

9:30 - 11:30 am
Service Project in the
Reclamation Department

12:00 - 1:30 pm
Social Gathering:
Fellowship with
Catered Lunch at FAWM

WHO

- 70 Volunteers Needed
- Youth age 16+ are welcome to participate

PREPARING FOR THE SERVICE PROJECT

- Please read the event information below, review and sign the Liability Waiver, and kindly bring a non-perishable food item to the Joint Service Project. Thank You!

SIGN UP HERE

Caring Connections

The Caring Connections Committee is looking for a coordinator. If interested please contact **Mary Anne Gorman** by [clicking here to email her](#).



Muskegon Rising Podcast Audio & Video!



Muskegon Rising

The new Muskegon Rising Podcast Season 3 comes in audio and video form. Scan the QR Code above and support the video to help support the Muskegon Rotary Foundation through this fundraising opportunity. We will have a Rotary lunch program on this on February 19th. Thank you, producer **Mike Vogas** and hosts **Aaron Maike** and **DJ Hilson**, for your efforts at this community building and fundraising opportunity!

Sargeant-At-Arms **Ed Hendrickson** is improving. Cards and calls are appreciated.

Life Leadership-Interviewers Needed

Stephanie Tushek is looking for volunteers to interview candidates for the Life Leadership Conference. Contact **Stephanie** or **John Noling**. For more information about the program, click here:

<https://ridistrict6290.org/50029/Page/Show?ClassCode=Page&Slug=life-leadership-conference-2026>

Muskegon Rising Podcast S3E2: Trevor Friedeberg – GMED



Economic development touches nearly everything in a community, from job opportunities to housing to the kind of future we’re building together. The newest episode of the Muskegon Rising podcast takes a closer look at how that work is happening right here in Muskegon County.

In S3E2, host Aaron Maike sits down with Trevor Friedeberg, CEO of Greater Muskegon Economic Development, to talk through how companies are choosing Muskegon, what goes into major infrastructure investments like the regional wastewater pipeline, and why housing, workforce readiness, adaptive reuse, and brownfield redevelopment are now central to economic development. They also break down what more than \$800 million in countywide investment really means for residents, employers, and the local workforce.

If you’ve ever wondered how economic development decisions are made or how they turn into real jobs and opportunities, this episode offers a clear, grounded look.

Listen now at: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18592538-trevor-friedeberg-gmed>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



More news from Sarasota, Florida by Bob Scolnik

I attended my second meeting of the Rotary Club of Sarasota held Wednesdays at the upscale Marina Jack’s, complete with Valet parking. (Another \$28 lunch, plus the valet tip!) Another very nice and friendly Rotary meeting, and while I was standing, talking to someone I had just met, another member comes up to me and says: “Hi Bob. I haven’t seen you in a long time!”. OMG! It was my old friend Ken Lahey, who lived in Grand Haven, but has many friends throughout West Michigan. Ken moved to Sarasota about 10 years ago but lives on his boat on Spring Lake from May through October at Keenan Marina. I first met Ken at least 20 years ago because of Rotary. Our Club was involved with the Grand Haven and Spring Lake Clubs in “TOP” ...the Trelawney Outreach Project... an effort to provide water filters along with larger water projects to villages in Jamaica. He talked about Don Crandall and Bill Loxterman also being involved and I met monthly with a group that was spearheading the project. Ken has been involved in recent years with HHOP, the Healthy & Humanitarian Outreach Project in Honduras. Over the years, as I’ve traveled, I’ve attended Rotarian meetings in other cities, including Hawaii. It isn’t unusual to run into someone you know or someone with a connection from your home area. Attending as a guest only means you pay for lunch and your meeting, if you report it to our club secretary, counts as a make-up meeting for your attendance record. Plus, it’s fun! Reporting from a cold, 62°, Sarasota, Florida, Bob Scolnik, Former Muskegon Club President, and 36-year Rotarian





**Feeding America West Michigan
Liability Waiver and Release**

Feeding America West Michigan (also known as Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan, Inc.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the collection and distribution of food to those in need. I intend to assist Feeding America West Michigan as a volunteer. Volunteer activities may include, but are not limited to, food reclamation, gleaning or distribution at Feeding America West Michigan facilities or off-site activities such as gleaning on farms or assisting with mobile pantry food distribution. In consideration of participating as a volunteer and in recognition of the non-profit status of Feeding America West Michigan, I hereby agree as follows:

The minimum age for volunteers is 8 years old. Volunteers under age 18 must have a Liability Waiver and Release signed by a parent/guardian. All volunteers younger than age 16 must volunteer with an adult.

Youth volunteer group's safety ration is 1 adult volunteer for every 7 volunteers under age 18.

I hereby release Feeding America West Michigan from, and waive on behalf of myself and my heirs and any minors indicated below, any and all causes of action, claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, and compensation for damage or loss to myself and/or property that may be caused by any act or failure to act, of Feeding America West Michigan, or that may otherwise arise in any way in connection with any voluntary activities with or for Feeding America West Michigan. This Liability Waiver and Release extends to Feeding America West Michigan together with all of its staff, officers, directors, affiliates and agents.

I assume the risk of any and all dangerous conditions in and about Feeding America West Michigan facilities or in connection with any off-site voluntary activities.

IT IS MY LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT BY THE LIABILITY WAIVER AND RELEASE TO EXEMPT FEEDING AMERICA WEST MICHIGAN AND ALL STAFF, OFFICERS, DIRECTORES, AFFILIATES AND AGENTS FROM ALL LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE AND WRONGFUL DEATH.

This waiver contains the entire agreement between myself and the parties released and their affiliates.

I hereby give permission to Feeding America West Michigan to use my photos and likeness in all forms and media for advertising, portfolio, demo, trade, editorial, including the right to edit or alter, without restriction or compensation. I release Feeding America West Michigan and photographer all forms of claims and liability related to my photo use.

I have read and understand Feeding America West Michigan Liability and Release and the Volunteer Policy. I agree to follow the guidelines and understand that my continued service may be contingent upon my ability to work productively and safely within these guidelines. I am signing voluntarily.

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Authorized Minors: _____

04/2022