

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

July 24, 2025

Next Meeting (July 31, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Soup & Sandwiches at the Lake House
Program Topic — Kids Food Basket

What's Coming

July 31 — Kids Food Basket

August 7 — The Importance of Planning Panel

August 14 — Love Lives Here

Upcoming Birthdays

August 3 Rita Caviness

August 6 Amy Campanelli

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeters This Week

Greg Borgman
Pat Shafer

Reflector This Week

Brad Hastings

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer — Roger Morgenstern

RIM Reporter — Roger Morgenstern

RIM Editor — Jackie Farrar

7/24/2025 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)



President Dave began the meeting with another rock 'n roll classic, and queried the audience on the artist and title. He admitted he must have secretly wanted to be a DJ!

Reflection



Brad Hastings provided the Reflection.

Visitors & Guests



President Elect Roger

Morgenstern introduces his guest, "almost Rotarian" Dennis Atkinson. Dennis is sponsored by **Susan Crain** and will be inducted soon.



Darlene Collet and her guest, her son **Corbin Collet**



Bill Loxterman and his guest **Ivan Ivanof**.



Greg Borgman and his guest **Cameron Gowell**.



Kristi Pawlak and her guest **Debbie Null**



Kat Hyder introduces her guest and potential new member **Karen Kekelik**.



Mary Anne Gorman and her guest **Drew Terwee**.



Missy Horton and her guest and Lakeshore Museum Center colleague **Morgan Witmer**.

Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month

5:00-5:15pm Social time

5:15pm Meeting start time

At Core Plaza (Vault)

Contact Kaytie Drake
at kaytieely@aol.com for more
information

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](#):



President Dave confers with **Missy Horton** who filled in for **Kim Boersema** this week to help with the Zoom recording of the weekly meeting.

This Week's Program: Observations on Eastern Europe

Presenter:
Field Reichardt

Introduced by:
Nancy Crandall



Nancy Crandall introduces this week's speaker.



Our speaker, Grand Haven resident Field Reichardt, was very complimentary of enhancements and improvements across the greater Muskegon community in the last 30 years, but in particular paid special recognition to two long time community leaders, both Rotary past presidents, **Don and Nancy Crandall**, for all they've done for Muskegon. Reichardt is pictured here with the Crandalls after the meeting.



Our speaker, Field Reichardt.

Grand Haven's Field Reichardt is well known in West Michigan political and business circles, but he's also spent time overseas and has gained a unique perspective on especially Eastern Europe.

Reichardt was there in the late 1980s, working to help certify one of Poland's first democratic elections. When he returned to Eastern Europe this spring, the change in attitude toward the U.S. was very clear.

"There's an old saying: When the United States sneezes, the rest of the world catches a cold. Well, the diagnosis is worsening for some. Europeans bordering Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia—are catching pneumonia."

In late April, Reichardt spent two weeks visiting Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. He met with political thinkers, senior journalists, young citizens and politicians all spanning the political spectrum. "The trip was both exhilarating and deeply disturbing."

He said the positive was to see the "remarkable development of their democracies" and economies since he was last there in the late 1980s. He said the disturbing aspect was the overall sentiment of "fear for their future...not concern, fear."

With each of the individuals he talked to, he raised three issues:

- Concern about the United States' commitment to "Article 5" of the NATO treaty, which states an attack on one NATO ally requires a response by all allies;
- The effect on U.S. tariff policies on businesses;
- Whether Europe can put together an effective military coalition "in the event NATO is consigned to the dust bin of history."

He pointed out that since his visit, President Trump has voiced more support for NATO. "Recently his tune has changed. Let's hope it's consistent."

On tariffs, Reichardt said "our government's chaotic tariff policy is a huge problem for businesses." While the small Baltic countries do not export much to the U.S., the business they do with other, larger, European nations such as Poland, Sweden and Finland could be affected if those economies slow because of higher U.S. tariffs.

Regarding the concept of a European military coalition, the people Reichardt talked to are concerned with who would lead the coalition and what could happen if the far-right political party in Germany comes to power in the country's next election. Recent polling indicates this fear of the future, Reichardt said. "Until recently, north-central Europeans have considered the USA as their best friend, but attitudes are deteriorating rapidly."

For example, the respected pollster CBOS has found among Polish citizens:

- In April 2023, 80 percent of Poles thought Polish-American relations were good. By April 2025, this had shrunk to 31 percent.
- In April 2023, 52 percent of Poles felt America's impact on the world was mainly positive. In April 2025, this had decreased to just 20 percent.

The fear of continued Russian aggression, beyond its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, was on the minds of many of the people he talked to. For example, Reichardt interviewed the CEO of a large media company in one of the Baltic countries. "He told me, with emphasis, 'I am 51 percent absolutely convinced the Russians will

not invade us. But just in case I am wrong, my family and I have planned on how they will quickly leave the country. I will stay with my staff to keep communicating with people here as long as we can.' ”

Reichardt said “Americans do not realize how crucial we have been to the stability of the planet for 80 years.”

While America remains on the world stage, Reichardt said statistics show that superiority is waning. For example, the U.S population is just 4.22 percent of the world’s population. Looking at gross economic production, the U.S. provided 32 percent of the planet’s economic production in 1990; today that is down to 15 percent.

“I urge all of you to think about the future,” he concluded in his remarks to the Club.

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague, & Craig Person

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt Huggett, Roger Morgenstern, & Claire Ritter

Contributors: John Noling, Mike Vogas, & Doug Wood



President Dave has enlisted these two lovely Rotarians, **Darlene Collet** and **Annette Jack**, to lead our weekly singing of "Happy Birthday" for Rotarians marking that annual milestone. Some Rotarians will remember Annette used to occasionally play the piano during our weekly meetings. Many thanks for lending your voices!

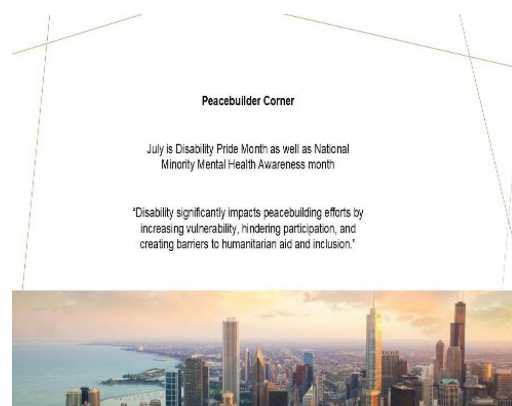
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Andrew Cutler, chairman of the Party in the Park Committee, reminded members of the e-mail from him in their inbox to help volunteer for Rotary's Party in the Park, which is Friday Aug. 22. Sign up by opening Andrew's e-mail!



Carla Flanders reminded everyone that Harvest Fest is Oct. 23 at Baker College's Culinary Institute of Michigan downtown and tickets are now available for \$85 apiece, the same price as last year. Carla said something new this year is a special perk for Harvest Fest volunteers. Volunteers who sign up to help can buy their ticket for just \$45 and can purchase a second ticket, also for \$45, if they bring a non-Rotarian with them to the event. Stay tuned on how to sign up to help and get this great discounted ticket deal!





Missy Horton shares two upcoming new member events (as reported in the last edition of *RIM*): a new member social gathering 5 p.m. Aug. 18 at the Vault, 221 W. Webster, and a new member Coffee Connect at the Muskegon Museum of History and Science, 430 W. Clay, on Sept. 5 from 8-9 a.m.



President Dave mentioned several upcoming calendar items regarding the Club:

- Since he and **President Elect Roger Morgenstern** will be gone the first two weeks in August, **Past President Tim Arter** will run one meeting and **President Nominee Lisa Tyler** the other. Dave and Roger will report on their excellent adventures up north...and a search for Rotary Clubs on Beaver and Drummond islands...when they return.
- The August Rotary Board meeting has been rescheduled to 12 noon Aug. 19 at the Block downtown. Any club member is welcome to attend board meetings.
- The monthly Past Presidents breakfast for August is canceled; the next will be 8 a.m. Sept. 2 at Carmen's downtown.

Muskegon Rising Podcast

S2E29: Gail Brechting Muskegon Lumber Queen



In this episode, we talk with Gail Brechting, conductor of the West Michigan Concert Winds, about the rebirth of Muskegon: Lumber Queen. This homegrown musical blends local history, community pride, and live music to create something truly special.

Gail shares how a forgotten box of sheet music sparked a full-scale production set to premiere this October. She walks us through building a pit orchestra, mentoring musicians, and why Muskegon continues to be a quiet powerhouse for the arts.

If you care about music, community, or what makes this town special, you'll want to hear this one.

Listen now at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17548381-gail-brechtig-muskegon-lumber-queen>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Rotary In Action Susan Besteman



Our Rotarians in Action segment this week features *RIM* Co-Editor **Susan Besteman**. She said by working on the *RIM* with Co-Editor **Jackie Farrar**, she gets a great prospective of all the wonderful things both our club and Rotary International do. "Being a Rotarian means making a difference in the world." Susan said she's indebted to *RIM* founder **Bill Johanson** for his mentorship, good humor and assistance as she took over as a *RIM* editor in 2020. Watch the entire video [here](#).