

# 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 3, 2025

**Next Meeting (July 10, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — BBQ at the Lake House**  
**Program Topic – Inbound Exchange Students**

## What's Coming

July 10 – Inbound Exchange Students

## Upcoming Birthdays

July 12 Katherine Hegedus  
July 15 Ken Johnson

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeters This Week

Tara Foreman  
Pat Shafer

## Reflector This Week

Eric Seifert

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Claire Ritter  
RIM Reporter – Craig Person  
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

### RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman &  
Jackie Farrar

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Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,  
Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague,  
& Craig Person

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Huggett, Roger Morgenstern,  
& Claire Ritter

Contributors: John Noling, Mike  
Vogas, & Doug Wood

## Reflection



Eric Seifert provides the reflection



Greg Borgman and guests Dion Stumpo his cousin Dianna Corrierox



Rachel Fawcett and guest Meisha Brown



President Dave Alexander and guests Peg Alexander and Bob Chapla



Kat Hyder and guest Karen Kekelik

7/3/2025 Muskegon Rotary  
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)





**Kim Taylor** and two guests **Cliff Oliver** & **Mackenzie Taylor**

## This Week's Program: Passing of the Gavel to the new President

Presenters:

**Outgoing President Tim Arter & Incoming President Dave Alexander**



**Marcia Hovey-Wright** and guest **Stephanie Miletich**



**President Dave Alexander**

### ***Dave Alexander: A Steward of Muskegon Steps Forward***

Dave Alexander's name is etched into Muskegon's story—not just as a journalist, but as a civic force. After more than three decades reporting for *The Muskegon Chronicle*, Dave transitioned into leadership roles that helped reshape the city's waterfront, downtown, and community spirit. Now, as President of the Muskegon Rotary Club, he brings that same passion and purpose to a new chapter of service.

### **A Legacy of Service**

- **33+ years** as a journalist covering Muskegon's government, business, and people
- Former **Executive Director of Downtown Muskegon Now**, leading redevelopment efforts along Muskegon Lake
- Appointed **Business Development Manager** for the City of Muskegon, supporting retail growth and historic preservation
- Spearheaded initiatives like the **Read to Kids Book Drive**, collecting over 5,000 books for local families



**Don Kalisz** and guest **Jessie Wilde**



### ***President Dave Alexander is Sworn in and the Gavel has been Passed***



**Kendrah Robinson** and guest **Zacoya Hohnson**



### Words That Echo

"Muskegon's best years are still ahead of us." — *Dave Alexander*  
"Not all ideas will bear fruit, but I welcome them—and the grace of our board to explore them." — *Rotary acceptance speech*

### Looking Ahead: Dave's Vision for Rotary

Foster **flexibility and collaboration** among board members

- Champion **diversity, equity, and inclusion** in Rotary outreach
- Strengthen ties between Rotary and **local small businesses**
- Celebrate Muskegon through **joyful service and community events**
- Support **historic redevelopment** and waterfront access for all



Directors **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga & Tom Palmer**, Treasurer **Kimberly Taylor**, Secretary **Jane Clingman-Scott**, Past President **Tim Arter**, President Nominee **Lisa Tyler**, and President-Elect **Roger Morgenstern**

### 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:  
Aaron Maike                      Tom Palmer  
Marty Sytsema                Esther Ricco  
Lisa Kraus                      Melissa Moore  
Arlen-Dean Gaddy          Dimitri Poland  
Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*\*\*July 17<sup>th</sup> is the next  
ReWine Meeting**

### Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) for more information

### Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E26: Bernard Brown Career Tech Center



What if students could explore real-world careers before they graduate high school?

In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, host Aaron Maike talks with Bernard Brown from the Muskegon ISD Career and Technical Education Department about how hands-on learning is changing the game for students across Muskegon County.

From new programs in aviation mechanics, engineering, and agrosience to middle school STEM labs and summer career camps, CTE is helping students discover their path and build skills that match today's workforce.

Listen now to hear how CTE is breaking down barriers and creating opportunities across our community.

Listen here:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17433570-bernard-brown-career-tech-center>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



## Rotary In Action Greg Borgman



Discover how Muskegon Rotary has grown into a vibrant, welcoming community that embraces people from all walks of life. In this insightful video interview, Greg Borgman, a retired Goodwill Industries professional and gay man, reflects on his initial doubts about fitting into Rotary and how the organization has transformed to celebrate diversity and inclusion. From rich, white men to women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, Muskegon Rotary now reflects the rich fabric of the community it serves. Join us as we explore this powerful story of unity, service, and friendship.

To watch his video, click [here](#).



Craig Person and Claire Ritter have joined the RIM Reporting Team



**Cynthia Maynard** is looking for volunteers to help with flags

### Volunteer Opportunity

This is an Unforgettable Experience  
Please consider helping with putting  
flags up and /or taking them down



- \* Memorial Day
- \* Flag Day
- \* July 4<sup>th</sup>
- \* Labor Day
- \* Veterans Day

For more information, please email

**John Noling**

[johnnoling65@gmail.com](mailto:johnnoling65@gmail.com)

**Cynthia Maynard**

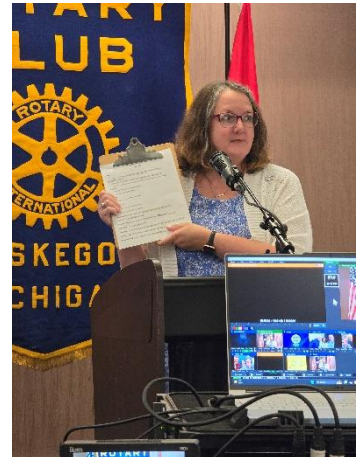
[catcd526@comcast.net](mailto:catcd526@comcast.net)

**Carim Calkins**

[carimcalkins@gmail.com](mailto:carimcalkins@gmail.com)



**Darlene Collet** informed members that new badges are coming with magnets and can affect heart devices



**Lisa Tyler** is looking for a few more volunteers to help with greeting



The Microforest is amazing in its diverse beauty and big growth spurt going on now!

But we still need to help get after some weeds...please join in for whatever time you can spare

Monday, July 14

8:30-10:30 am

Park on Ducey Avenue, one block south of Marquette off Creston

Fellow Rotarians,  
A report and thank you from  
Dekyra Diggs, one of 33 students  
we sponsored for Life Leadership  
this year, our largest group ever.  
It makes for great reading. Hope  
you enjoy! Another report next  
week!



*Going to the Life Leadership Conference was one of the best decisions I have ever made for myself. I wasn't only taught how to become a leader, but also how to become a better person in the long run. The talks we had as groups and in our separate families built connections and made it less anxiety-inducing to be in a new environment. The time we spent in the auditorium was my favorite part of the conference because that's when everyone got together to learn, but also to share experiences that helped us feel like we were not alone. I also have to mention Molly's talks. She helped me*

*understand that the only person who can hold you back is yourself, and you have to be able to take responsibility for yourself to become a better person. Her experiences that she shared with us were also inspiring, like how she spent 10 years training for the Iron Man because she believed in herself and what she wanted to do.*

*The speaker who impacted me the most was Mr. Howard Oesterling. My favorite poem he read was "A Butterfly's Story." I resonated deeply with that poem because at times I struggle a lot, but without it, I would not be where I am today or even who I am. The poems he read made me think about how much each person in that room is going through. Everyone in that room could have something to be sad or mad about, but throughout the conference, everyone was so joyful. It made me think about all the things they could be carrying with a smile on their faces. While he read the poems, I looked around the room to see many people touched by his words. The poems were one of the last talks we had before we left, and as we all went back to the dorms, I could tell many were going to bring his words with them, just like me.*

*Going to the conference didn't change my habits, but it changed a bigger part of me that I was struggling with, my perspective. I now know methods I can use to become better as a whole. I learned about "Flip Your 20." You cannot expect to be a better person when you are constantly tearing yourself down. You have to change your mindset so you can become a better version of yourself. I'm going to use this throughout my entire life. I have problems when it comes to believing in myself, but I see how that has held me back from being who I*

*want to be and doing what I want to do. I will no longer allow myself to hold myself back, but I will be kinder to myself and focus on the brighter side of things in my life.*

*Improvement-wise, I do wish we did something involving sports as a big group, like flag football, freeze tag, or an obstacle course completed together with our family groups. I also wish we had more time to be at the dorms or playing volleyball, because going to the auditorium was what took up most of the time. Other than that, I had a great time at the LLC, and it was an experience I will never forget.*

*I would like to thank the Muskegon High School Class of 1965. Without your generosity, I wouldn't have been able to experience LLC and build bonds with so many people, including a new bond with myself. I wouldn't have learned all the lessons from those more experienced than me, and I wouldn't have changed in a way that is better for myself until I at least made it well into adulthood. I thank you all for allowing me to go to such a life-changing event.*

*Dekyra Diggs*

*\*\*\*\*Dekyra is now a junior at MHS, an active member of the Rotary Interact Club, and is pictured volunteering recently at the Trinity Health Seaway Run down at the Silversides on the Channel handing out water for runners. Her life has been enriched because of us. We hope Rotary will be part of her great future!*