

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 31, 2025

Next Meeting (August 7, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Lasagna at the Lake House
Program Topic – The Importance of Planning

What's Coming

August 7 – The Importance of Planning Panel

August 14 – Love Lives Here

Upcoming Birthdays

August 8	Nancy McCarthy
August 9	Frank Peterson
August 10	Diana Osborn
August 11	Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga
August 13	Darlene Collet
August 13	Dale Strasler

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeters This Week

Meredith Smillie
Jonathan Scouten

Reflector This Week

Jamie Hekker

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Claire Ritter
RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



President Dave starts the meeting

Reflection



Jamie Hekker Provides our reflection

Visitors & Guests



Rachel Gorman and guest Hannah Delora



Kris Vanderstelt and guest Chris Burnaw



Bill Loxterman and guests Ivan Ivanov



Kaitlin Hermanson and guests Katelyn Smoger and Lyndsey Schmitt



Kirk Hallman and guest Amelia Anderson

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](#):

7/31/2025 Muskegon Rotary
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Induction



Susan Crain, Dennis Atkinson, and President Dave Alexander

Dennis is a native Michigander, born in Detroit, educated in Flint at GMI (now Kettering) and is relocating to Muskegon from Ferndale on the east side of the state. He's married to Dawn Atkinson (Kilcommons) for nearly 40 years this August.

They have two wonderful daughters (Elena and Tess) and two adorable granddaughters (Kai and Audrey). (If you're curious about them, he's got plenty of photos that he's very willing to share with you. 😊)

Dennis has achieved two degrees in engineering, electrical and biomedical (from Penn State). Over his career, Dennis has worked with GM (at the Warren Tech Center), Siemens and GE healthcare as a researcher and research director, and has worked in academia (USC and Wayne State) as a collaborations manager.

Most recently, he retired from a small startup that he founded, a company that is making safety logistics tools for the transportation and storage of high-power lithium-ion battery

systems (for EVs, laptops and utilities).

He has been active in local community activities in Michigan over the last decade, including building a program with social workers during the Flint Water Crisis, developing a Center for Citizenship at Wayne State, fundraising for Ferndale PRIDE and even being a balloon handler in the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Dennis is interested in Muskegon Rotary and the great work done by its members. He's interested to speak with the club's leaders who could use someone with a technical background and is willing to help out with their programs.

Employment history

*** Entrepreneur – Co-founder & chief engineer @ e-cellsecure, LLC**, a small Detroit-based firm that makes safety products for the manufacturing, storage and recycling of batteries (5 years)

*** Director of corporate engagement in office of economic development @ Wayne State University** (6 years)

*** Director of industry relations in office of research @ University of Southern California (USC)** (6 years)

*** Academic Research Manager for western US @ General Electric Medical Systems** (7 years)

*** Collaborations research manager and MRI research scientist @ Siemens Healthcare Systems** (15 years)

Community Volunteer Activities

- * Crossing Waters – Group leader with Flint-based social work organization delivering water and other supplies to homes during the Flint water crisis (8 years)
- * Ferndale PRIDE – Volunteer (logistics and fund raising) (7 years)
- * Wayne State Center for Citizenship – Executive Board (7 years).
(<https://csc.wayne.edu/about/executive-board>)
- * Detroit SOUP – Entrepreneurial organizer for fundraising events (5 years)
- * Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade – Volunteer balloon handler & float builder (8 years)

This Week's Program: Kids Food Basket

Presenter:
Stephanie Cathey

Introduced by:
Rob Cook



Rob Cook introduced our speaker today, Stephanie from Kids Food Basket.



Stephanie spent her time today, talking specifically about Kids Food Basket, and the expansion here in Muskegon.



Kids Food Basket is services four counties along the Lakeshore: including Muskegon, Kent, Allegan, and Ottawa. The three foundations are access, education and agriculture. Kids need access to high quality, nutritious foods to nourish minds. 11,000 kids receive food sacks to take home from school each day. Providing consistent access to culturally inclusive and healthy foods. They also advocate for policies and sustainable funding to improve healthy food access for kids and families experiencing food insecurity. 90% of their funding is private and is fund raising. Education equips kids, families and communities through education about what nutritious food is, where it comes from and why it matters for healthy development.

They also promote healthy food habits through knowledge, skills and experiences for kids and families in the community. They actively try to build community awareness and advance food equity through equity and advocacy. They continue to develop partnerships with local nonprofits.

Kids Food Basket is head quartered in Kent County and offer hands on experiences for youth from several Muskegon County, and other surrounding schools. Stephanie also shared that they want to partner with organizations, like the Boys and Girls Club, by connecting with our Club to add raised garden beds where they can utilize good grown locally in their meal planning and service at the Boys and Girls Club. Kids Food Basket farms provide over 3,000 produce boxes to Three Oaks Academy. Kids can come and participate in farming and return home with produce boxes.



Agriculture promise allows kids access to farmland and agriculture spaces as experiential classroom for kids, families and community. They are advancing KFB's mission by providing these meaningful experiences and opportunities using agriculture as a foundation.

They are looking to increase, improve and advocate for access to healthy foods for kids, families and community.

There are a variety of locations in Muskegon to serve kids sack lunches throughout the summer. They have partnered with public libraries and parks to get food into the hands of kids and families. There are over 250 volunteers that work daily to get kids their sack lunches.



In Muskegon, KFB loves their partnership with Central United Methodist church and using their basement to keep KFB in the core city. They served over 1,900 kids during that time. Kids Food Basket will be moving into the old Barclay Center at the end of August, which sits on 6 acres of property. This space will allow the ability to bring in large groups and participate in experiential learning about healthy food and food habits.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

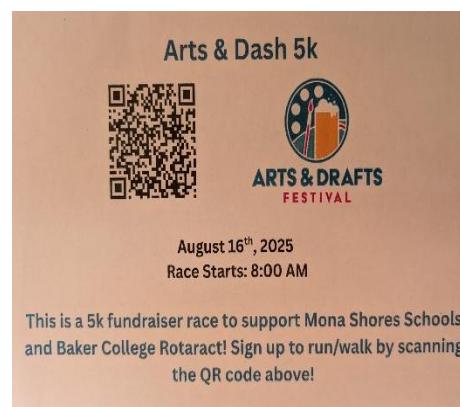


President Dave Alexander

- * Reminded members the next ReWine meeting is August 7th
- * The Muskegon Area Parks and Greenways Coalition has a strong Volunteer component, and is looking for a Rotary Liaison for the coalition volunteer group. If you are interested contact him
- * **President Dave Alexander** 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



Jamie Sowa asked members and guests to sign up for a 5k or a walk on August 16th Use the QR Code below to register



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



Andrew Cutler, reminded members of the email they received from him to help with volunteering for Rotary's Party in the Park, on Friday Aug. 22nd



Hannah asked **President Dave Alexander** to let guests and members know that she will be participating in The Penguin Project "Frozen Jr." held at the Frauenthal Center on September 6th and 7th this year

Rotary In Action RaShonda McDaniels



RaShonda McDaniels reflects on the powerful impact of having a mentor through the Rotary Club during her time at Muskegon High School. RaShonda shares how her 11th-grade mentor, Lynnette Griffith, provided crucial guidance, academic support, and personal encouragement, leaving a lasting impression on her life. Highlighting the value of mentorship, RaShonda expresses deep gratitude for the kindness and dedication shown by her mentor and praises the Rotary Club for continuing to offer life-changing opportunities to students. Watch the entire video [here](#).

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E30: Park Kersman Lorin Industries



Meet Park Kersman, president of Lorin Industries. He's a third-generation leader focused on people, place, and purpose.

In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, Park talks about how Lorin evolved from a local manufacturer into a global innovator in anodized aluminum. He shares why community involvement matters and how their "take it forward" mindset is making a difference in Muskegon and beyond.

If you're interested in leadership, legacy, or local impact, give it a listen.

Listen now at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17583424-park-kersman-lorin-industries>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

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