

# 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

June 12, 2025

**Next Meeting (June 19, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Chicken Parmesan at the Lake House**  
**Program Topic – Summer Festivals**

## What's Coming

June 19 – Summer Festivals  
June 26 – Tim Arter The Year in Review  
July 3 – Passing the Gavel to the new President

## Upcoming Birthdays

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| June 19 | Dom Bunker   |
| June 22 | Annette Jack |
| June 22 | Joanie Smith |
| June 24 | Marj Jones   |

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeters This Week

Dimitri Poland  
Cynthia Maynard

## Reflector This Week

Linda Garzelloni

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Mark Alpher  
RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego  
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

## Reflection



Linda Garzelloni provides the reflection



President Tim Arter starts the meeting



Ed, Kim, and Mike all receive kudos from President Tim Arter for all the behind the scenes work they do to make the weekly meetings flow smoothly.

## Visitors & Guests



Dave Alexander and guest Ron Koehler





**Bill Loxterman** and guest **Peggy Scouten**



**Melissa Horton** and guest **Morgan Witmer**



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



**Jen Wakely**, husband **Matt Wakely**, daughter **Estella**, and **Nany McCarthy**



**Amy White**, Husband **Mark White**, and **Jim Fisher**



**Kat Hyder** and guest **Karen Kekelik**



**Lisa Tyler** introduces her guest **Heather Wiegand**



**Carla Flanders** and **Katie Cree**



**Heidi Sytsema** and guests **Julie Benedict** & **Richard Vanderputte-McPherson**

## **Muskegon Rotary Board**

Tim Arter, President  
 Dave Alexander, President-Elect  
 Roger Morgenstern, President Nominee  
 Ginny Sprague, Past President  
 Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer  
 Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary  
 Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator  
 Directors:  
 Aaron Maike                      Tom Palmer  
 Brandon Turnbull              Esther Ricco  
 Marty Sytsema                  Lisa Tyler

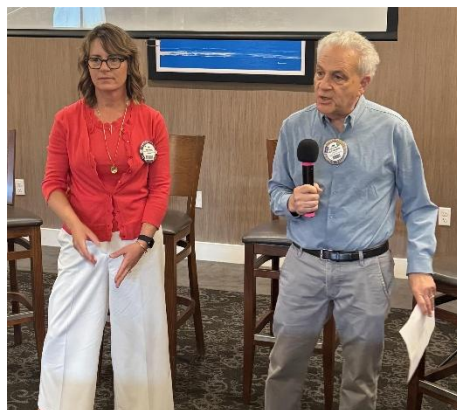
**Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):**





**Brad Hastings** and guest **Heather**

## New Members



**Amy White**, with her sponsor **Jim Fisher**



**Amy** and **Jen** are our newest members



**Claire Root-Benson** and guest **Lisa VanLonkhuyzen**



**Jen Wakely**, with her sponsor **Nany McCarthy**

## This Week's Program: Panel Presentation on Community Pride, Connection & Belonging

**Presenters:** **Addie Witmer** (West Shore Gender Sexuality Alliance), **Ken McCallum** (QPro+), and **Eleanor "Ellie" Daniels** (Golden Years, Pride)

Introduced by: **Claire Root-Benson**



**Claire Root-Benson**, **Addie Witmer**, **Ken McCallum**, and **Ellie Daniels**

### RIM Reporting Team

**Co-Editors:** **Susan Besteman** & **Jackie Farrar**

**Reporters:** **Kathy Moore**, **Roger Morgenstern**, **Meredith Smillie**, **Sue Samaniego**, **Ginny Sprague**

**Photographers:** **Mark Alpher**, **Wyatt Huggett**, & **Roger Morgenstern**

**Contributors:** **John Noling**, **Mike Vogas**, & **Doug Wood**



**Ed**, **Kim**, and **Mike** all receive kudos from **President Tim Arter** for all the behind the scenes work they do to make the weekly meetings flow smoothly.

## Introductions and a little about the panelists:

**Addie Witmer:** She/They. A Muskegon High School graduate headed to George Washington University in DC. Was involved in Interact. Representing West Shore Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA)

**Ken McCallum:** He/Him. Representing QPro+, a business networking group for the LGBTQ community. Went to college in Grand Rapids. He and his partner have been together 25 years.

**Ellie Daniels:** 1980 Muskegon High School graduate. Lived in the Southeast US most of her adult life, primarily South Carolina. Recently moved back to Muskegon. Breast cancer survivor. Representing Golden Years Lunch Group and Muskegon Pride.

## Tell us something interesting about yourself.

**Addie:** You may have seen me as Christopher in the Curious Incident of the Dog in Nighttime.

**Ken:** I worked at McDonalds for 28 years and can sing the Big Mac song backwards (and he proved it!)

**Ellie:** We are all just humans. My favorite ice cream is Moosetracks.

## Please tell us a little about your organization.

**Addie:** West Shore GSA is a social group for LGBTQ teens. Even though it meets at the St. John's Episcopal Church, it is not religious in nature. The group is for 13–18-year-olds. They do a LOT of snacking, crafts,

movies, karaoke, and recently had a booth at Muskegon Pride and participated in the Hands Off Protest. Check out their Facebook

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/lakeshoregsa/>

**Ken:** QPro+ was inspired by the Grand Rapids Chamber's OutPro program. He brought it to Muskegon in October 2023. We are professionals who provide referrals to each other. We want to make it easier for people to find businesses where they can feel safe and comfortable. The group also took over the sticker project and provides DEI training. Check out their website for more information: <https://www.qproplus.com/>

**Ellie:** I was worried when my partner and I moved to a relatively small town after living in Ashville, SC, which had a thriving LGBTQ community. We went to Muskegon Pride's Coffee with Friends, held every Saturday from 10 to noon at The Coffee Factory. We found that there was a thriving community here and that Muskegon Pride is responsible for that. Golden Years was started by Dennis Halsey. It's Lunch for Seniors program is an opportunity for those over 55 years old to network. It can be hard to make connections later in life. This provides that opportunity. We also have a dinner every three months. Muskegon pride has many subcategories. Check out their website for more information: <https://muskpride.org/>



Claire Root-Benson facilitates the discussion between Addie, Ken, and Ellie

## What is your why?

**Addie:** It's fun! We started by helping the church with its open and affirming covenant. When it was chartered, we wanted to show that with a community group for LGBTQ teens. It can be hard to know the members of your community. Safely meeting others in the "open" can be difficult. This is a way to find real life friends who care. It normalizes relationships. My belief is that God hates no one.

**Ken:** We started due to the same types of fears. In the restaurant industry, there is a high LGBTQ population. As an Aflac insurance agent, it's not the same. When I say, "Allen and I" when talking about my life, some people ask who Allen is. Some don't want to do business with me when they find out. This group provides a safe place to talk business and to find businesses that you can feel confident doing business with.

**Ellie:** There were over 11,000 people at Muskegon Pride last week. The numbers were amazing. (Hackley Park will be the venue going forward!) Activism calls me. This is my hometown. I was a closeted lesbian in high school. On senior skip day, some boys beat up a gay classmate. That terrified me! Lots of things like this have happened. It is important to me to support these organizations and the LGBTQ community – to empower



me and for me to help empower others.

### Audience question to Addie:

How are you reaching out to teens in the entire community?

We reach out to all the local schools' GSA groups and they can recommend us to their students. A lot of it is word of mouth.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Volunteer Opportunity This Saturday – Flag Day

Timeframe around one hour

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



- \* Memorial Day
  - \* Flag Day 7:15am and/or 6:00pm
  - \* July 4<sup>th</sup>
  - \* Labor Day
  - \* Veterans Day
- For more information, please call  
231 – 215-7581 or 231-248-677-8938

### 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



### Rotary In Action Jenna Arter



Muskegon Rotary is proud to sponsor clubs in area schools that allow students to grow in the understanding of service to the community.

Currently, all Mona Shores schools have clubs giving young people this opportunity to grow in cooperative spirit and discipline.

To watch her video click [here](#).

### Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E23: McKenna Inglis – First Tee



What do golf, mentorship, and youth development have in common? A whole lot more than you think.

In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, we sit down with McKenna Inglis of First Tee of West Michigan to explore how a growing nonprofit is shaping the next generation, on and off the course. From expanding access to golf across Muskegon, Oceana, and Newaygo counties, to teaching confidence, leadership, and character, First Tee is doing more than developing swings; they're building game changers.

You'll hear:

- \* Why golf's culture of patience, respect, and integrity makes it the perfect teaching tool
- \* How First Tee served nearly 450 youth last year, with programs offered at little or no cost
- \* The power of mentorship and why investing in kids today builds stronger communities tomorrow

Whether you're a golfer, parent, educator, or just someone who cares about the future of our youth, this one's worth a listen.

Listen now to S2E23 at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17320728-mckenna-inglis-first-tee>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

## Question

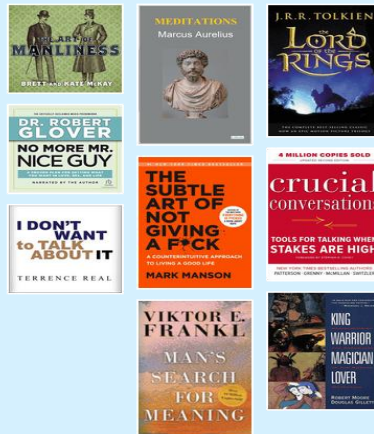
Does anyone know the whereabouts of the large Love Lives Here Rotary banner that is pictured below/attached?



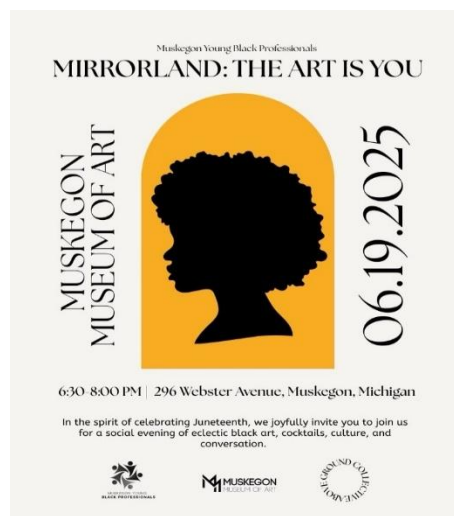
## Clipper Car Load Fun



June is Mens Health Month  
To see a full list of recommended reads [Click here](#)



## DEI Corner



According to a White House proclamation, Juneteenth is a federal holiday commemorating one of the most important moments in American history: the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans.

MADL top recommended reads



[Click here](#) to see the full list



## ReWine Satellite Club Visits Lakeshore Fab Lab

On Thursday, June 5, the ReWine Satellite Club—along with a few members from the Rotary lunch group—enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Lakeshore Fab Lab. The tour was organized by fellow Rotarian Carim Calkins, who has been a member of the Fab Lab since its inception in 2018.



Carim guided us through the facility with help from Gabe Guerrero and Daniel J. Snow, staff members at the Fab Lab. Their knowledge and enthusiasm made for a fascinating and educational experience.



For those unfamiliar, the Lakeshore Fab Lab is a community-driven makerspace located inside Muskegon Community College's Sturris Technology Center at 388 W. Clay Street in downtown Muskegon. The lab serves as a collaborative environment where individuals of all ages can access advanced fabrication

tools and receive expert guidance to bring their ideas to life. It's open to students, entrepreneurs, small businesses, museums, clubs, and anyone with a creative spark.

The Fab Lab is equipped with a wide array of tools, including 3D

printers, laser cutters, CNC routers, plasma and water jet cutters, metal milling tools, vinyl printers, digital scanners, and t-shirt heat presses. These powerful resources enable users to explore product design, prototyping, and small-scale manufacturing.

During our visit, we viewed a variety of finished projects on display, showcasing the lab's creative potential. A highlight of the evening was watching Carim design and print custom stickers for each visitor to take home—an exciting hands-on demonstration of the equipment in action



Memberships to the Fab Lab are available for individuals, families, and organizations. These memberships provide access to equipment and staff support. The lab also offers educational programs such as workshops and field trips, particularly focused on promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning for K–12 students.

### Special Offer for Rotary Members:

Interested in joining? Rotary members can enjoy a special discounted rate of **just \$10/month**, which includes full lab access and staff assistance. Material costs and machine time are not included and must be covered separately.

A big thank you to Carim for introducing us to this incredible local resource and sharing his passion for innovation with the group!