

The RIM Newsletter

Rotary

In Motion



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 18, 2026

June 25, 2026, Chicken Alfredo at the Lake House Program – President’s Rotary Year in Review

What’s Coming

June 25 – President’s Rotary Year in Review

Upcoming Birthdays

July 1 Susan Besteman



Caring Connections Fund
[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Rem Sprague

Greeters This Week

Greg Borgman
Jamie Sowa

Reflector This Week

Emily Morgenstern

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Jackie Farrar
RIM Reporter – Roger Morgenstern
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

Muskegon Rotary June 18th
YouTube Video:
[CLICK HERE](#)



President Dave starts the meeting

Reflection



Emily Morgenstern provides the reflection

Muskegon Rotary Board

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Roger Morgenstern, President-Elect
Lisa Tyler, President Nominee
Tim Arter, Past President
Kimberly Taylor, Treasurer
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Please email Club Board Members
through this [link](#):

RIM Reporting Team

Editors: Susan Besteman,
Jackie Farrar, and Ginny Sprague

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

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett,
Brock Johnson, Emily Morgenstern,
and Roger Morgenstern

Visitors and Guests



Visiting Rotarian **Greer Jordan & Aria Jordan**



Maggie Malone & Max Finberg guests of **Roger Morgenstern**



Jenna Lakos guest of **Melissa Moore**



Cathy Wilson guest of **Rich Houtteman**



Kathy Agard & Ben Soyars guests of **Jim Fisher**



Jana Rottt guest of **Dom Bunker**



Braden Johnson guest of Ammy Seymour



This Week's Program:
Hosting International Exchange Students

Presenters: Chauncy Williams, Ammy Seymour, Jana Routt, Susan Beteman, and Braden Johnson

Moderated by: Dom Bunker

RIM Reporter: Roger Morgenstern



President Dave shares his Muskegon Minute

Rotary in Action Alex Fonseca

This week's Rotarian in Action is **Alex Fonseca**, a Rotarian since 2022, and owner of Fresh Coat Painters of Muskegon. The company has a program called Fresh Coat Cares, which partners with non-profits on free painting projects. Alex's first link to Muskegon was as a Rotary exchange student from Brazil! Watch the full video [here](#).



Dom Bunker presents our weekly speakers

As our Club's Youth Exchange Officer, **Dom Bunker** aptly juggles a lot of balls to keep track of "outbound students" scattered across the Earth, "inbound students" being hosted here in Muskegon and others interested in our program. But trying to schedule a couple of busy teenagers in the summer?



Muskegon Rising

That wasn't in the cards. Because our two international students were off traveling the U.S., we instead heard interesting insights from two mothers who have hosted international students this year, two program counselors and even a student who was a Rotary exchange student almost a decade ago.

Dom said the Youth Exchange program is "powered by people" serving in a variety of volunteer roles. Those roles include a General Committee Member, Host Family Liaison, Rotary Fanatic Lead (the chief cheerleader), Social Engagement Lead, Inbound Service Conference Planning Committee and Student Interview Day Team.



Susan Besteman shares her experience with Inbound Students.

"Going into it I wondered if we could bridge our cultural differences, but those differences ended up being high points of our experience," Jana said. Simon, in a house with two "host sisters" got along with them so well they would playfully roughhouse like they were lifelong siblings. "He was just part of the family...it's like he has always been here."

Susan agreed. "I was surprised how well we jived. We became a family in such a short period of time." Jana said she's also become friends with Simon's family in France. They are planning a visit to Michigan this summer to meet everyone in person. "It enriches your family in ways you never expected. We just gained another family."

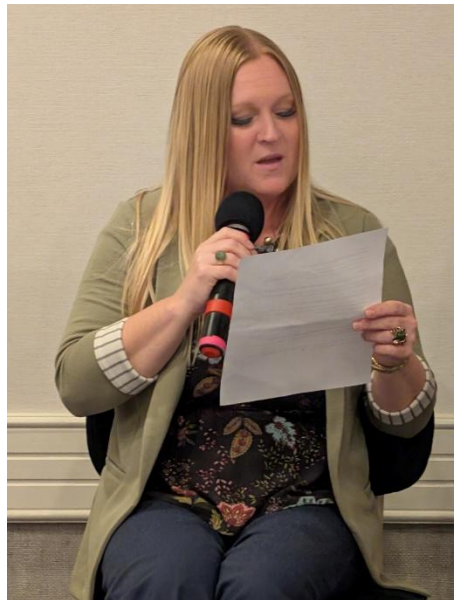


Chauncy Williams, Ammy Seymour, Jana Routt, and Susan Besteman

We heard from two recent host parents, **Susan Besteman** and Jana Routt. Susan and her family hosted Ella from Brazil while Jana's family welcomed Simon from France into their home. Both said the experience has been great and the guests soon became family members.



Jana Routt and Susan Besteman



Jana Routt shares her experience with an Inbound Student.



Dom Bunker, smiles while hearing the responses to her questions to the panel.



Chauncy Williams and Ammy Seymour

welcome, as well as a number of Rotarians. “Having that community of people that just helps them dive into the experience is so helpful.”

Chauncy also shared a story about Mitchie and running track. She had run short-distance track in Nigeria, but Chauncy wanted her to run cross-country. “She ran a lap and she looked at me and I just you’ve got to keep running!”

Braden, who now lives out of state, happened to be home in Montague and was able to sit down with an exchange student because he’d been through those same waves of emotions, Ammy said. She said the student and her family later told her how much they appreciated the time with Braden and how it helped her.



Chauncy Williams

We also heard from **Chauncy Williams** and **Ammy Seymour**, who have served as youth exchange counselors. Chauncy said when he worked with Mitchie from Nigeria, he engaged the entire Muskegon High School Interact Club to help her feel



Ammy Seymour shares experiences including coffee spots.

Ammy said there are a wave of emotions the exchange students face. Initially, there is a lot of positive energy and excitement as their stay gets underway. However, by about Halloween, that elation can decrease as the weather gets colder and maybe they’re homesick or questioning their decision to go overseas. This is when the counselors can help, and in one case Ammy had a secret weapon, her son Braden Johnson. Braden was an exchange student in France through the Montague-Whitehall Rotary Club during 2018-19.



Braden Johnson joins the panel

Braden, who while in France lived on the outskirts of one of the world’s largest cities, Paris, said coming from Montague, Michigan was quite a change, but he embraced it. “It was overwhelming, I was just 17 years old. But at the same time it made the world so unbelievably small and I learned so many things are attainable.

Once I came home I got the travel bug and it's totally changed everything for me."



Braden Mom **Ammy Seymour**.

Braden got chuckles from some longer term Muskegon Rotarians, including this *RIM* reporter, when he said he remembered meeting **Ed Kaminski** from the Montague/Whitehall Club. Ed, who visited our Club regularly to talk about international exchange members of the Club, made a lasting impression on Braden. "As the Youth Exchange Officer his passion was unbelievable. Really every Rotarian I've interacted with has been so impactful."

ReWine Meeting Schedule

* Thursday June 18 at the Vault
RSVP by Wednesday at 5:00 pm for the meeting on Thursday. Contact Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com to RSVP. (Total # attending including guests)



Stage Manager **Rem Sprague**

Announcements



President Dave reminds members of the ReWine meeting tonight. Also shares an update from **John Noling** who is at Life leadership with 40 kids. **John** thanks Rotary for support last week in helping send Reeths-Puffer's Eliazbeth Ramirez Murillo to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's conference on drug prevention next month. We raised about \$370 for travel costs - Let's help this high school student continue her leadership development.



Roger Morgenstern reminded Rotarians we still have some slots available to help line Seaway Drive from Hackley Avenue to Green Street with American Flags on Saturday July 4, our country's 250th birthday. Thanks to those who have signed up. Roger will be in touch with you on details as soon as he gets back from his Honduras Rotary service project to build a library! Please see the Sign-Up Genius reminders from Kim.



Wyatt Huggett, one of our awesome *RIM* photographers, made a very creative pitch for more photographers by showing the group just how many of us have smart phones in our hands. That's all it takes!

See Wyatt or another member of the *RIM* team (listed elsewhere in this fine publication) if you can help.

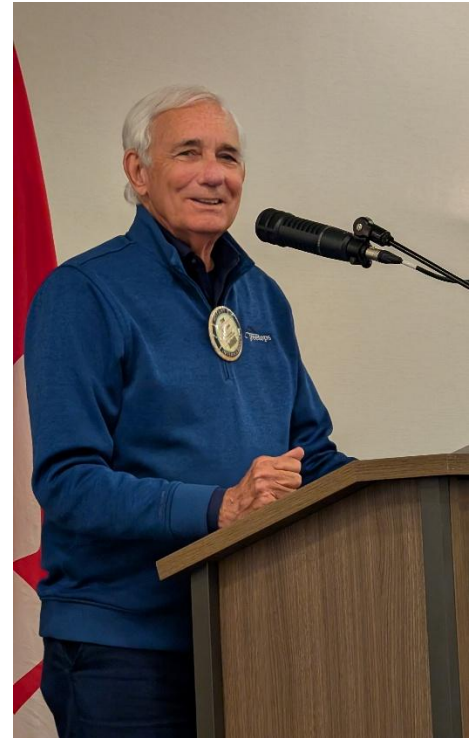
President Elect Roger quickly announced he's taking a one-year break from the *RIM* writing and photography staff so he can focus on his presidential responsibilities, meaning more help is definitely needed!



Carla Flanders from the Harvest Fest Committee let us know we'll be getting an e-mail soon encouraging us to help identify sponsors for this year's event, which will be Oct. 22.

Our goal is to secure \$30,000 in sponsorships so we can help support the great work our Muskegon Rotary Foundation does around the community.

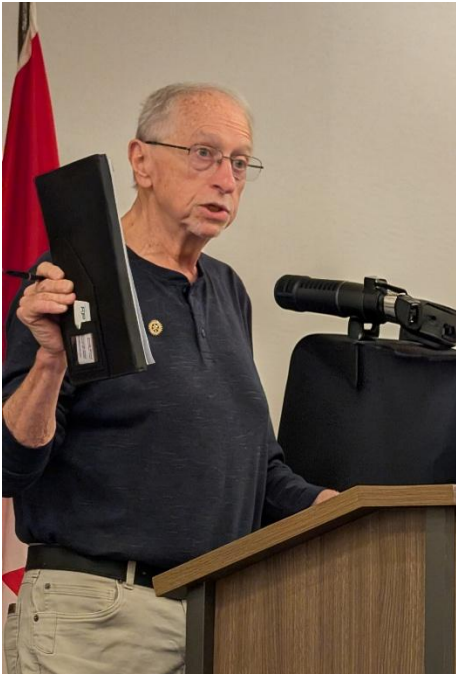
Social Committee



Tim Lipan from the Social Committee showed there's no rest for these fun-planning folks! Fresh off a Muskegon Clippers Rotary Night, the committee is now excited to announce a FREE sunset cruise June 30 on the Aquastar.

Having a Rotarian working at the Mart Dock, the ship's owners, and a planned narration of Muskegon Lake's history and development by our own **President Dave** got us this great deal.

Appetizers and a cash bar will be available. See the Sign-Up Genius from **Kim Boersema** for more details!



Doug Wood shares that he is collecting pop cans in the back; he thanks everyone for donating and gives thanks to the two students who sneaked in from Reeths- Puffer High School.

Dom not only moderated today's program - She is also celebrating a Birthday this week with four other members!

Happy Birthday to All!



Adopt-A-Highway Program Looking for Volunteers



Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, July 11.

Volunteers will meet promptly at 7:30am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 10am, 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, estherricco@hotmail.com or 616-283-1810 and she can provide you with details. Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!



Brad Hastings shares the DEI committee is sponsoring Taking Back Muskegon - Juneteenth Event tomorrow – The morning will start with a Parade and then a Community Festival.

Grand Haven Rotary Foundation, Inc.

2026 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 2 DOOR RAFFLE



Proceeds go to Grand Haven High School Aquatic Center Enhancements

Drawing to be held at
Central Park Place, 421 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417
July 6, 2026 @ 12:30 PM

TICKET PRICE: \$100

Contact any Grand Haven Rotarian to purchase tickets or to purchase online, please visit grandhavenrotary.org/product/jeep-wrangler-affle

400 tickets are not sold the drawing will revert to a 50/50



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