

# 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 March 12, 2026

**March 19, 2026, 12 – 1:30pm — Wraps & Hoagies at the Delta Program – The Corner; A Community Collective**  
 This program will tell the story of how a family combined five professional endeavors in a stately structure & found community.

## What's Coming

- Mar 19—The Corner, A Community Collective
- March 26— Economic Development Overview
- April 2—Solid Rock Housing

## Upcoming Birthdays

- Mar 19 Cathy Brubaker-Clarke
- Mar 20 Timothy Lipan
- Mar 21 Steve Edwards
- Mar 22 Tara Foreman
- Mar 24 Alan Alpert



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

## Stage Manager This Week

Tiffany Dupont Novak

## Greeters This Week

Don Kalisz

## Reflector This Week

Mary Anne Gorman

## RIM Reporting this Edition

- Photographer – Emily Morgenstern
- RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
- RIM Editor – Susan Besteman



President **Dave Alexander** quizzes the club on his music selection this week.

Mary Anne Gorman provides a St. Patrick's Day themed reflection.



## Visitors & Guests



**Tennille Woodward** introduces her guest, Patrick Adams (Lean Solutions)



**Cynthia Maynard** introduces her guest Tony Asmus (Professional Printer)



**Don Kalisz** introduces his guest, Sarah Meier (new Operations Manager at Kindred Marketing)

## 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                      Brandon Turnbull
- Melissa Moore                      Samantha Scott
- Arlen-Dean Gaddy                      Dimitri Poland
- Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga                      Lisa Kraus

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

Muskegon Rotary March 12<sup>th</sup>  
 YouTube Video: [CLICK HERE](#)

## Visitors & Guests cont.



**Carla Flanders** introduces her guest Corbin Davis



**Jim Fisher** with upcoming new member, Kippy Ellis (Realtor)



**Roger Morgenstern** introduces his guest, Lori Doriot (retired from Education)



Proud Whitehall School Board member **Melissa Moore** was excited to introduce guests from Whitehall. High School Principal Brett Westerlund introduced two fantastic seniors, Noah Morse & Colton Kyser.

## This Week's Program Welcome District 6290 Governor, Mark Andresky!

Presenter: **Mark Andresky**

District 6290 Governor

Introduction by: **Dave Alexander**

RIM Reporter: **Meredith Smillie**



The Muskegon Rotary Club welcomed District Governor **Mark Andresky** for lunch today. Mark shared his vision for our club and our district. Mark is a member of the Charlevoix Club and shared he was an ambassadorial student and studied in Strausberg, France in the late 80's. The Rotary mission is truly in Mark's blood; he has served in several roles in the Charlevoix Club and within the district.

Mark thanked our club for our servant heart and doing Rotary "really, really well". He thanked us for our service and "never resting on our laurels and always looking to do more and increase our impact in the community".

Mark shared that our very own **Brianna Scott** started vision

facilitation at the district level, although this has been done often at the club level. In the past year, our district spent six hours discussing ideas and suggestions about a three-year action plan that was adopted for the district. Brianna made sure that Mark has a plan of action for our district. Now our district has a plan for all incoming district governors and can continue to execute the vision for our district.

1. Visioning: our district reignited strategic planning for any club in our district. This meant that a number of Rotarians were trained to facilitate vision planning for the clubs in our district. By the time Mark ends his term, 30% of the clubs in our district will have participated in this vision planning. See the full report here: <https://ridistrict6290.org/Documents/en-ca/462b850b-486c-4d2b-8e90-b2b02ed5f541/1/>
2. Promoting Peace and Conflict Resolution: Mark helped our district develop a peace building committee with our own, Doug Wood, as the first ambassador for this committee. Rotary is looking to purchase peace poles throughout the district. Each club can custom build a peace pole. Muskegon was the first peace builder club and will help other clubs build peace builder clubs in the district. Rotary is hoping to participate in the Peace walk across the bridge in Sault St. Marie in September.

3. Membership: Mark shared he hopes to duplicate the membership of the Muskegon Club. Historically, we lose approximately 2-3% of Rotarians, in the district, each year. There is now a membership committee at the district level. There is now a membership kit available to each club. Muskegon helped pioneer the use of satellite and companion club. It is very difficult to establish a Rotary Club and only one has been established in the past 10 years. Muskegon has been able to offer a noon meeting and a satellite evening club (ReWine). Mark hopes that clubs in our district can replicate our model.
4. Rotary Youth Programs: 1 in 5 of the clubs in the district do not offer any youth involvement programs. The goal is to increase the number of youths that are affected by Rotary and allow for greater impact.
5. Cross Collaboration: Muskegon continues to partner with other clubs. Mark shared that he knows more gets done when clubs get together and serve together. This is something that Mark prays get more traction in the coming year.

Succession planning is very important for Mark and the district. For the first time ever, we have a district jobs board, for Rotarians that may be interested in increasing their impact via

Rotary. There are curiosity sessions where Rotarians can learn more about these positions with no commitment.

<https://ridistrict6290.org/sitepage/open-district-volunteer-roles/>

**Save the Dates:**

- Spring learning center will be at Frederick Meijer Gardens on
- April 18. Sign Up—[CLICK HERE](#)
- Saturday, May 16 is the Epic Day of Service. This will be a nationwide Rotary event. Rotarians will partner with local communities and partner with other organizations to complete service projects in their area.
- Saturday, June 6, Crystal Mountain induction of new District Governor, **Julie Schumaker**



District 6290 Governor **Mark Andresky** and Muskegon Rotary President **Dave Alexander**

**RIM Reporting Team**

Editors: Susan Besteman, Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague  
 Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, & Sue Samaniego  
 Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, Brock Johnson, Emily Morgenstern, & Roger Morgenstern



RI District 6290 Governor **Mark Andresky** visited our Club on March 12. Before addressing the full club at its weekly meeting, Mark met with Board members and other leaders.



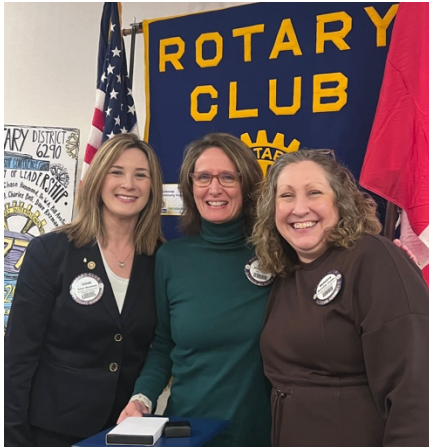
**Rotary In Action  
Chauncy Williams**



Innovation Academy coach and Rotarian Chauncy Williams explains how mentorship, service learning, and global opportunities like Rotary Interact, Life Leadership, and Youth Exchange help Muskegon students grow beyond the classroom. From overcoming financial barriers to studying abroad in Brazil, this conversation highlights how community partnerships empower young people to become creative problem solvers and global citizens while strengthening the future workforce of Muskegon, Michigan.

Watch the video—[CLICK HERE](#)

## Paul Harris Fellow Award Jackie Farrar



Susan Besteman, Jackie Farrar, & Meredith Smillie pose for the RIM photographer (Emily Morgenstern)

**Jackie Farrar** (center in the above picture) was born and raised in Muskegon County and has never left. She loves Muskegon and joined the Muskegon Rotary club in 2019 to build more relationships in the community and serve as much as her schedule allows. She enjoys walks (especially on the beach), hiking, running, reading, attending church, and spending time with family and friends which includes her husband, three adult sons, and two fun and energetic grandchildren. She recently celebrated a birthday and, in a few days (if I did my math correctly), will be celebrating 33 years with her husband, Matt Farrar (Muskegon County Deputy Administrator).

According to her well-known husband, she volunteers for at least 40 hours each month with their church, Pound Buddies (where she is on the board of directors), hospice, and is also part of our famous Rotary In Motion (RIM) Newsletter team as Co-Editor. She is the Provider Network Manager at HealthWest, gives 110% effort on every project she tackles, and is a blessing to everyone she meets.



## Muskegon Rising Podcast S3E5: TJ Meerman - Mona Shores Boys Basketball



In this episode of Muskegon Rising, host Aaron Maike sits down with TJ Meerman of Mona Shores Boys Basketball to talk about leadership, culture, and the lasting impact coaches can have on young lives.

Coach Meerman shares how his experiences as a player, mentor, and program builder have shaped his approach to developing student-athletes through discipline, relationships, academics, and service. It's a conversation about much more than basketball. It's about helping young people grow into strong teammates, students, and future leaders.

Listen now:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18841057-tj-meerman-mona-shores-boys-basketball>

Watch now:

<https://youtu.be/VN9kcgFd7jQ?si=TI0UX8N1Rfzq5giT>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

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and subscribe  
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[Why Muskegon Is Rising—CLICK HERE](#)

## Announcements



President Dave Alexander provides club updates.

### Rotary ReWine Schedule

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays each month

- 5:00-5:15 pm social time
- 5:15 pm Meeting begins

**March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting cancelled**

Next meeting is April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Core Plaza. Bring supplies for the El Salvador trip to this meeting.

April 16<sup>th</sup> will be at John Noling's house with a bonfire.

April 18<sup>th</sup> Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up

RSVP by 5 pm on Wednesday for the meeting on Thursday.

Contact **Kaytie Drake**

at [kaytieely@aol.com](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) to RSVP (total # attending including guests)



**Darlene Collet** encourages members to visit Rotarian **Ed Hendrickson** at home as he is receiving Hospice care.



## Braver Angels Workshop

Your Rotary PeaceBuilder Committee is hosting the Braver Angel Workshop, “Bridging the Political Divide”, Part 2, to be held May 1, 1-4 p.m., at the Chamber/GMED offices, 380 W. Western Ave., Suite 202. This workshop is the second half to the workshop held in the spring of 2025. Many of those who participated in the first half asked to have the second half held, including some observers who now would like to be active participants. This workshop will focus on open discussions, as well as finding common ground. Contact Cathy Brubaker-Clarke if you would like additional information.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

## Brave Rotarians: March Madness



### Meredith Smillie

announced she still has 6 spots for the Brave Rotarians March Madness Competition (2026 Men's and Women's basketball tournaments). \$100 secures your spot in the contest. Not only could you win a Paul Harris Fellow for yourself or as a gift to a worthy recipient, but you also fulfill your **Every Rotarian Every Year** contribution to The Rotary Foundation! Sign-ups will continue through March 12, 2026, and payment is expected by March 12. You may pay by **check to the Muskegon Rotary Foundation**, cash, or the QR code to pay by credit card.



**Kat Hyder** gets the club excited for the summer season and announces that Rotary will have the first Parties in the Park date on May 29. Volunteers are needed!



**Doug Wood** reminds the club of the Great Michigan Read Author event on April 13 at 6:30pm at The Corner. The book is *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* by Curtis Chin.



Join us for an evening with Curtis Chin, author of *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*, as part of the statewide Great Michigan Read tour presented by Michigan Humanities.

Chin's memoir traces his experiences growing up Chinese-American in Detroit—balancing humor, heart, and the lively world of Chung's Cantonese Cuisine, his family's restaurant that fed people from all walks of life in 1980s Detroit. His story captures the complexities of coming out as a gay Asian-American, his years at the University of Michigan, and his later work writing for film and television.

**APR 13 | 6:30pm**  
The Corner (280 W. Muskegon Ave)  
Doors open at 6pm with tastings from local Chinese Restaurants available until the event begins. Books will be available for purchase courtesy of the Book Nook.

Save your seat with this QR code



The 2025-26 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities. Additional support is provided by national, statewide, and local partners, including the Library of Michigan and MSU Federal Credit Union.



**Wednesday, April 15, 5-7:00 pm,**  
794 Kitchen & Bar

**Monday, April 20, 5-7:00 pm,**  
Unruly Brewing

**Friday, April 24, 4-6:00 pm,**  
Wonderland Distilling

**Tuesday, April 28. 7:30-9:30 am,**  
Community House \*\*

**Thursday, April 30, 5-7:00 pm,**  
Muskegon Brewing

\*\* Please note the **April 28** event is a **morning coffee hour** at the Community House.





**Dimitri Poland** invited Rotarians to walk in the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 14 in downtown Muskegon.



**Ben Carson, Greg Borgman, Roger Morgenstern, Emily Morgenstern, & Dave Alexander** represented our club



One of our newest Rotarians, Ben Carson, tasked with shortening up our club banner so we could carry it in the parade.



**Dom Bunker**, chair of the Youth Exchange Committee, has been notified of our first Inbound student, a young man from Germany, and we await notification of two more. Please consider welcoming one of these students as a **host family!** Contact Dom for more information: [Click Here](#)

### Youth Exchange Outbounds

Now is the time we begin recruiting the next class of outbound students from Muskegon County. Volunteers will also be needed to help speak with students too. If you are interested in volunteering and/or know any students who may be interested in being an outbound Rotary Youth Exchange student, contact **Dom Bunker**.

### Community Yard Sale—May 15-17th

Rotarians, outbound youth exchange families, and friends are invited to donate items for a community yard sale on May 15th-17th at the United Way building parking lot. More details to come but please start thinking about items you may be able to contribute.

### Next Youth Exchange Committee Meeting

Our next meeting will be:  
Thursday, March 26 at 5:30 PM  
United Way of the Lakeshore Building

### United Way Day of Caring



**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

<https://www.unitedwaylakeshore.org/day-caring>

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



### ReWine Updates

#### Adopt-A-Highway Program Looking for Volunteers

Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, April 18. Volunteers will meet promptly at 8:45am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 11:00am, sooner if we get a lot of help 😊). Also looking for two drivers to drive along with the volunteers who are picking trash. If you can help, please contact **Esther Ricco**, [riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu) and she can provide you with details. Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!



### MCC Rotaract Polar Plunge

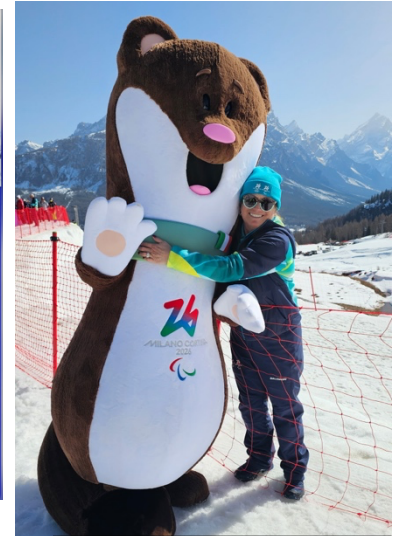
MCC Rotaract completed the Muskegon Polar Plunge



# Polar Plunge 2026



## Paralympics Update From Jules Terry



Milo the Mascot for the Paralympic Games

fundraiser for the Special Olympics on March 7. The team, *MCC Rotaract Birds of a Feather*, raised \$640 for the cause. Club president Kaitlin Bruno, who spearheaded the project, raised \$320. Two members bravely took the plunge, Tobias Melton and Matthew Posthumus! Other member supported the jumpers with cheers and warm towels: **Kaitlin Bruno, Jonathon Ruiter, Quintina Wallace, and Icelyn Strong.**



The Grande Stand for the Alpine finish area



Jules Terry in her official uniform



One of the racers' family