

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, May 7, 2026

**May 14, 2026, Sweet & Sour Chicken at the Lake House
Program – Fab Lab**

What's Coming

May 14 – Fab Lab
May 21 – Central America, Honduras
Muskegon Connections

Upcoming Birthdays

May 14 Karen Kekelik
May 15 Arn Boezaart
May 15 Trevor Friedeberg
May 18 Kendrah Robinson
May 20 Pete DeBoer



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

Stage Manager This Week

Rem Sprague

Greeters This Week

Roger Morgenstern and Greg
Borgman

Reflector This Week

Andy Buelow

RIM Reporting this Edition

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

Reflection



Andy Buelow's reflection included quotes by Etty Hillesum.

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:
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Melissa Moore Samantha Scott
Arlen-Dean Gaddy Dimitri Poland
Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga Lisa Kraus

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

Visitors and Guests



Susan Besteman with guest Angela Crossin
(Attorney who recently moved here from
Valparaiso, IN).



Roger Morgenstern with guest Maggie
Malone, Superintendent of West Michigan
Academy of Arts & Academics.



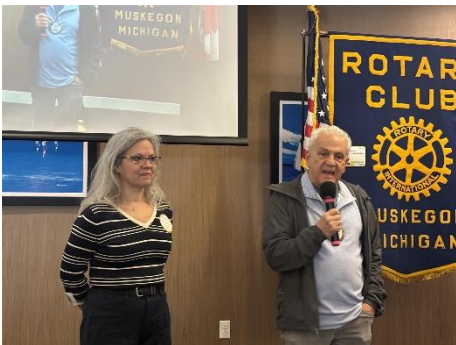
Kathy Evans, who submitted her application for membership, was introduced by **President Dave Alexander**



Jesse Wilde with her guest and owner of K and Z Maintenance, **Ken Wyman**



Lisa Kraus introduced her guest, City Manager of Saugatuck and her husband, **Ryan Cummins**



Jim Fisher with his guest, **Dr. Debra Bechtel**, Business Instructor at Muskegon Lakeshore High School Career Center



Vee Boeringa (far right) from the 14th circuit court, introduced today's guest speakers and winners of the Law Day Essay Contest, (L to R) **Summer Coleman**, **Ava Williams**, **Kalvin Ginn**, and **Regina McCollum**



Orchard View Interact Club members were introduced by **Doug Wood**. They have been working on the MicroForest, donations for winter supplies, and all four went on the service trip to El Salvador. From L to R—**Cole TerHaar**, **Kenya Blake**, **Breanna Neeley**, and **President Ma'Lanie Overstreet**

Student Guests



The Calvary Christian Eagles joined this week and **Marty Sytsema** introduced their Student Services Coordinator, **Kelly Walker**, who introduced **Jordan Richards** (plans to attend Michigan Tech and pursue an Engineering degree) and **Caleb Miller** (will head to Moody Bible Institute and is pursuing to be a Youth Pastor)

This Week's Program: Law Day

Presenters: **Ava Williams**, **Summer Coleman**, **Kalvin Ginn**, and **Regina McCollum**

Introduced by: **Vee Boeringa**

RIM Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**



Vee Boeringa introduced our speakers

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**

Each week at our Rotary luncheon meetings, we are reminded that the youth of our community offers a glimpse of a bright future in these challenging times. From high school student guests, to Earlyact, Interact and Rotaract members, we see that Service Above Self is alive and well.

Each spring, we honor the annual Law Day speech contest organized by the Muskegon County Bar Association by having several of the top participants share their remarks. This year's students did not disappoint. The four speeches we heard resulted in rousing standing ovations.

Our fellow Rotarian **Vee Boeringa**, a Muskegon County Family Court Referee, has been involved in the Law Day activities since 2019. She provided the background of Law Day across the U.S. and how it's been recognized locally.

Vee said the 2026 Law Day theme is "The Rule of Law and the American Dream." The rule of law—the idea that no person is above the law—is what ensures the rights of the people to live their lives as freely as possible and to pursue their dreams. She said the "prompt" for the High School Speech Contest was "How does the rule of law make it possible for individuals and communities in America to pursue their dreams, and what happens when the rule of law is not upheld? How do laws help ensure that people have equal opportunities to succeed? Why is it important that laws apply equally to everyone, including those in power?"

In their brief speeches, the students were instructed to reflect on the connection between justice, equality, and opportunity, and share their thoughts on why the rule of law is essential for protecting freedoms, rights, and the pursuit of the American Dream — both today and for future generations.

Our four presenters were:



Ava Williams, a junior at North Muskegon High School who took second place in the 9-11th grade competition



Summer Coleman, a freshman at Calvary Christian High School who took first place in the 9-11th grade competition



Kalvin Ginn, a senior at North Muskegon High School who took second place in the 12th grade competition.



Regina McCollum, also a North Muskegon senior, who took first place in the 12th grade competition.

Their speeches can be heard [here](#) on our weekly meeting You Tube video, beginning at about the 18-minute mark.



Our four speakers also showed how they can think and communicate effectively on their feet when asked a question by our own **Andy Buelow**:

“What are your thoughts on the decline of voting rights?”



The other Law Day finalists were: in third place, Reeths-Puffer senior Keeley Cole and in fourth place, Mona Shores senior Grace Chasco. In the 9-11th Grade competition, taking third place was Michayla Assaad of Calvary Christian and in fourth place was Zach Bentley-Sherrod of Muskegon Heights. Congratulations to the winners and all who participated!

Vee said Law Day is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law and remind all of us of how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms of Americans. First declared by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958, Law Day gives us an opportunity to appreciate the foundation of our society: the rule of law. Since 1980s, the Muskegon County Bar Association has celebrated Law Day in partnership with the community & Muskegon area schools.

This week’s program continues our Club’s tradition of bringing awareness and protection of civil rights and justice for citizens of the community. Beginning in 2008, along with the Muskegon County Bar Association Law Education Fund, organizers increased the awards to area

students. Everyone is encouraged to continue their generous donations to the Law Education Fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. For the past several years, the Muskegon County Bar Association has also partnered with Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD), the Muskegon Rotary Club, and the Montague-Whitehall Rotary Club to present Law Day. This continued relationship will help the Muskegon County Bar Association promote a forum that will allow our local students to have a voice on local issues and enhance their ability to thrive in this contest.

Induction



New Induction—Marty Burns (sponsored by Denise Sabo)

Marty and his wife Mimi relocated to Laketown Township about 3 years ago after 20 years working for a trade association in Washington DC.

Originally from the Chicago suburbs, they are thrilled to be back in the Midwest enjoying summer lake time and winter snow time. Marty is mostly retired from an investment management career but stays connected to the industry through his consulting company and as an independent trustee on 2 public mutual fund boards.

He holds a business degree from the University of St. Francis University in IL, an MBA from DePaul University, and several professional certifications. He is very excited about further connecting to the Muskegon community through the great work of Rotary!”



Announcements



President Dave Alexander thanked all who participated in the District Visioning session on Saturday and announced the good work started with the Kids Food Basket and Muskegon Rescue Mission to address food insecurity in our community.

ReWine Meeting Schedule

- * Thursday May 21 the Corner
- * Thursday June 4 Core Plaza
- * Thursday June 18 TBA

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)



Stephanie Tushek, on behalf of the Life Leadership Committee, informed members that 37 students will be attending this year’s conference. They will be at Ferris State University June 17-20th if you’d like to visit and observe. Text Stephanie or **John Noling** for more details.



Andrew Cutler is looking for more volunteers for Parties in the Park on May 29th.



Muskegon Rising



Dom Bunker is looking for items and volunteers for the Youth Exchange Yard Sale Fundraiser on May 15-17 at the United Way of the Lakeshore Parking Lot (31 E. Clay Ave, Muskegon, MI).

*** Over 50 Rotarians helped with Day of Caring with every age group participating—Early Act, Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary. Thank you for all your tremendous efforts.



Roger Morgenstern reminded Muskegon Rotary members of the joint service project with the Grand Rapids’ club at the North Muskegon MicroForest on Saturday morning at 9:00AM with social time at Hobo’s for lunch.



We hope you can join us! Here is the link for sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-63698091-joint>

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-raffle



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

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Muskegon Minute

President **Dave** Looking out on Muskegon Lake this past weekend, saw a sure sign that summer is around the corner. The Lake Express was cruising up Muskegon Lake to its dock in Lakeside. The Lake Express – the high-speed catamaran ferry connecting Milwaukee and Muskegon – has been in operation since June 2004. Getting ferry service between Muskegon and Milwaukee was a decades long endeavor ever since the Milwaukee Clipper ended its Muskegon-Milwaukee service in 1970. Generations of Muskegon leaders worked on various plans to revive the ferry route. The investment firm of Lubar & Co. – part owners of the baseball Milwaukee Brewers – finally backed the idea of building a 191-foot aluminum ferry carrying up to 250 passengers, 46 vehicles and 12 motorcycles for the two and a half hour crossing. The Lake Express is of Australian design built by Austal Ships in Mobile, Ala. Sheldon Lubar is a former official in the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations and longtime chairman of the famed University of Wisconsin System of 13 institutions led by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I wrote literally hundreds of cross-lake ferry stories over the years for The Muskegon Chronicle. After 22 years of operations, it is great to see the Lake Express continue to serve Muskegon, bolstering its tourism industry.

Rotary in Action Gary Nelund



This week's Rotarian in Action is **Past President Gary Nelund**, who has been a Rotarian for nearly 25 years. Gary owns a local State Farm Agency and joked he "moonlights" as the Mayor of Norton Shores.

Gary, who served as Club president in 2008-09, said our Club's strength is its size and that it represents all of our community, not just one segment.

He said he's also encouraged with all the new ideas and energy created by our many new members. You can view the entire interview [here](#).

Muskegon Rotary Youth Exchange Community Yard Sale for a Cause

May 15-17, 2026
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
United Way of the Lakeshore
31 East Clay Avenue
Muskegon, MI

Muskegon Rotarians, outbound youth exchange families, and friends are invited to help our Youth Exchange by donating usable items for the Yard Sale.

Please help our Youth Exchange by coming to the Yard Sale to purchase items as well.

Remember the old saying, "One person's junk is another person's treasure!"

Rotary District 6290 Volunteer Opportunities

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

Saturday, May 16, is the Epic Day of Service, nationwide. Rotarians will partner with local communities and other organizations to complete service projects in their area.

