

# 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

May 8, 2025

**Next Meeting (May 15, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Lasagna at the Lake House**  
**Program Topic – El Salvador & Honduras Trips**

## What's Coming

May 15 – El Salvador and Honduras Trip  
May 22 – Silent Observer  
May 29 – Celebrating Harbor Hospice and the Poppen Residence

## Upcoming Birthdays

May 15 Arn Boezaart  
May 18 Kendrah Robinson  
May 20 Pete DeBoer  
May 21 Peter Wills

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeters This Week

Dave Alexander  
Martha Fohlbrook

## Reflector This Week

Jamie Hekker

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Jackie Farrar  
RIM Reporter – Ginny Sprague  
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

## Reflection



Jamie Hekker provides us with a reflection

### 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](#):**

## Visitors & Guests



Rob Taylor introduces his guest Mehean Quinn



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke and guest Emma Fri

5/8/2025 Muskegon Rotary  
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)



**Vee Boeringa** introduces Elijan Parmley and Calvin Ginn Law Day winners and guests



**Megan Byard-Karaba** and guest Tricia Schuitema

## Inductions



**Lisa Tyler** and new member Pat Shafer



**Alex Fonseca** and guest Cori Bissell



**Mary Anne Gorman** and guest Mallory Meston

Retired from Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce (a long time ago!)

Because Rotarians like to shout out school mascots, she wanted you all to know that she graduated from Central Michigan University (go Chips) and received her Master's Degree from Grand Valley (go Lakers). She has two children who are U of M grads (go Blue). Formal education aside, some of my most important learning has come from leaders in this room.



**Scott Roodvoets** introduces his guest Martha Reidsma



**Susan Crain** and guest Denise

Pat has been active in the community for many years. Former United Way Board Member, Senior Activities Committee and others. Presently, serves as Treasurer of Channel Pointe Condominium Board, President of the Friends of Hackley Library and Church Council at First Lutheran Church.



**Heidi Sytsema** introduces Calvary Christian High School

Many of you may know her as she led Leadership West Michigan, the community leadership program, Muskegon In Focus, and she developed and presented the Chamber's STAR program for many years.



Hobbies include walking (every morning at 9 am), reading, and staying connected to community which is one of the reasons she is excited to be joining Rotary.

## Paul Harris Fellow Award



District Governor Brianna Scott provides Mike Vogas with a Paul Harris award

## This Week's Program:

### Law Day

Presenters: **Elijan Parmely & Calvin Ginn**

Introduced by: **Vee Boeringa**



Vee Boeringa introducing guest speakers

Vee Boeringa, a Family Court Referee for Muskegon County, began our presentation speaking about the purpose of the Law Day program to inspire and uplift our youth through civic engagement. Each year, students in grades 3 through 12 participate in art, essay, and speech contests about the importance of law and their voices in our democracy.

The American Bar Association, sponsor of Law Day Contest, chose the 2025 theme, *The Constitution's Promise, Out of Many, One*. For our local contest, the Muskegon County Bar Association tweaked the theme to *We the People, In Order to Form a More Perfect Union*, to demonstrate that our Constitution is not a relic of the past, but a living, breathing document that acknowledges our country is a work in progress, shaped and strengthened by the active engagement of its citizens. To this end, the prompt to the students was "Is the U.S. Constitution, in its current form, strong enough to continue fulfilling its promise of forming a more perfect union? How and to what extent do citizens play a role in fulfilling this promise?"

Ms. Boeringa reported that fifteen ninth to eleventh grade students and seven twelfth grade students participated in this year's contest. She concluded by thanking the Muskegon Rotary Club for its sponsorship of the Law Day Contest and recognized the Muskegon Rotarians who were contest judges: the Honorable Annette Smedley, Jennifer McNeill, and William Marietti; District Attorney, D.J. Hilson; Muskegon County Clerk, Karen Buie, and Mayor Gary Nelund. Other judges included the Honorable Matthew Kacel and Sarah Coleman, MAISD.



Calvin Ginn

Our first speaker was Calvin Ginn, a junior from North Muskegon High School, and the winner of a \$500 scholarship. Calvin opened his remarks with a stern warning that our Constitution is being seriously tested today and followed with a quote from President Abraham Lincoln, "Do not interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained for it is the only safeguard of our liberties." He continued noting that throughout history, our country has been tested, but hope lies in us, *we the people*, who can help protect our constitution and divert crises.

Recent polling reflects that our country is divided on critical issues including the economy, inflation, and social security. All this requires that we must act. We citizens cannot sit on the fence but must participate in political discussions, debate based on facts and interact with our elected representatives and hold them accountable for action on issues important to upholding our constitutional rights.

Our Constitution has been amended twenty-seven times. We must continue to act, react, and participate to protect justice for all. As we exercise our rights to free speech and assembly to exchange ideas today, we want to take action to preserve our liberties. Calvin closed by asking us to be informed citizens, taking an active role in our democracy so that we can answer yes, we are the land of the free and the home of the brave.



Elijah Parmley

Our next speaker was Elijah Parmley, a senior from Whitehall High School, winner of the twelfth-grade contest and a \$2,000 scholarship. He opened his remarks with a reference to the preamble to the U.S. Constitution, noting that it defines the purpose of establishing a more perfect union is to "...secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

He argues that our country has not lived up to the promise of the blessings of liberty for all our citizens throughout our history. He noted the denial of equal rights to African Americans, women, and Native Americans as well as in our current society the pursuit of equal rights for Americans with disabilities and LBGQT individuals.

Noting examples of restrictions on full rights of citizenship from our beginning as a nation that only recognized property-owning white men as citizens, the Three-Fifths Compromise to balance the representative rights for the southern states, the rights of citizenship were denied to these groups. From the very first document written to define our nation, the Declaration of Independence states that "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal." We have failed to live up to this promise.

While our Constitution has come a long way since 1787 due to the amendment process, Elijah charged the responsibility to fulfill the promise of the Constitution falls on us, the citizens. It is up to *we the people* to vote, to assemble, and to keep the system in check as we build the nation we want for future generations. Elijah concluded by stating, "After all, it was the ideals of the Founding Fathers which built the Constitution, but it is the hearts and minds of people fighting to be seen that shape today's interpretation of that foundational document."



Vee Boeringa listening to the students

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



District Governor Brianna Scott provides members with updates from the district conference





**Carla Flanders** provides an update for Harvest Fest



**Nancy McCarthy** gave thanks to those who attended the Equity Initiative Event. They provided eight \$5,000 grant checks to women entrepreneurs



**President Tim Arter** thanks everyone for supporting the Pours events

### 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

### Rotary In Action Kristi Nagengast



Kristi Nagengast is retiring as our Treasurer in July. Her tasks are many and all critical to our club. The various duties require strict attention to detail, flexibility, and kindness. Kristi supplies both with charm and grace. To watch her video, click [here](#).

## DEI Corner

May is Mental Health Month:  
For more information Click [here](#)

Upcoming Community Conversations

**Beyond Polarization**  
Making Conversations Possible  
community conversation series

Join us in person for free workshops with Braver Angels, designed to help you navigate differences, build understanding, and connect over meaningful conversation (and food).

Depolarizing Ourselves	Skills for Disagreeing Better	Families and Politics
May 29 1:30 PM - 7:30 PM White Lake Community Library	June 3 1:30 PM - 7:00 PM Hackley Public Library	June 11 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM MADL, Norton Shores Branch

For more information and to register visit [wgvu.org/community-conversation/](http://wgvu.org/community-conversation/)

Braver Angels | MADL | WHITE LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY | HACKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY | WGVSU Public Media | Norton Shores Branch

**Community House**  
Coffee Shop

**New Member Social-Pours for Community**

Join other new members and enjoy a cup of coffee.

**Thursday April 24**  
7:30-9:30 am  
or  
5:00-7:00 pm

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E18: Steve Olsen – Building a Better Muskegon, One Project at a Time



For nearly 50 years, Steve Olsen has balanced running a manufacturing business with building a stronger Muskegon.

“Get out of your comfort zone and join a community organization. You’ll get more out of it than you give.” – Steve Olsen

In S2E18 of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, Steve shares how he came back to the family business at Northern Machine Tool and became a key voice in efforts like downtown redevelopment, the Muskegon Farmers Market, and the future of the Sappi site. This is what it looks like when business and community work together.

Listen now on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17108921-steve-olsen-building-a-better-muskegon-one-project-at-a-time>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



Tim Lipan shares two upcoming social events

## Social Committee Save the Dates

May 21<sup>st</sup> Touring the Hackley Admin building 5:30 – 7:00

June 10<sup>th</sup> Clipper Car load Party  
“opening day” 5:30



Rachel Fawcett shares a little something for the Boys & Girls Club Gala on May 17<sup>th</sup>

## REWINE We Have a Banner!



To increase visibility during our gatherings, the ReWine Satellite Club now proudly displays a Rotary banner at each meeting. In addition, the group has introduced a new “social time” at our meetings the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. From 5:00 to 5:15 p.m., members and guests can grab a beverage, mingle, and catch up before the meeting officially begins at 5:15 p.m. sharp.

By making ourselves more visible and adding time to connect informally, we hope to make it easier for visitors and potential members to find us and feel welcome!

### 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



Adopt-A-Highway MDOT Pickup  
Spring Report  
Esther Ricco

A special THANK YOU to Kaytie Drake, Cindy Maynard, Evan Ewing, Kelly DeVos, John and Sue Noling and Kevin Ricco for cleaning up the Muskegon Rotary Club's Adopt-A-Highway stretch on I-96 on April 12. This amazing crew hauled 72 bags of trash to the side of the road for MDOT to collect and dispose of properly.

**WE NEED MORE HELP ON FUTURE PICKUPS!!!** If you have the desire to put **Service Above Self** into action, please email Esther Ricco ([riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu)) to get on the list for future pickups. If you aren't physically able to do the picking, I am always looking for drivers. Please consider helping out!



## A few more Highlights from Pours Events

