

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

October 16, 2025

Next Meeting (October 23, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Soup & Sandwiches at the Lake House
Program Topic – Pioneer Resources

What's Coming

October 23 – Pioneer Resources

October 30 – Progressive Companies
STAG report

Upcoming Birthdays

October 23 Linda Juarez

October 25 Claire Ritter

October 27 Lisa Gatti-Arnold

October 28 Jenny McNeill

October 29 Randy Lindquist

Caring

Connections

Fund



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

Greeters This Week

Parker Aerts & Mary Anne Gorman

Reflector This Week

Jamie Hekker



RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore

RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

10/16/2025 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Visitors & Guests



Lisa Kraus with her guest Jordan Webster



Greg Borgman and his guest Chase Kolberg



Dom Bunker introduces her guest and work colleague Sara Sherwood



Jason Piasecki introduces his guest and daughter Grace Piasecki



Pete DeBoer introduces his guest Sara Cooper



Dayne Robinson introduces his colleague, Muskegon Catholic Central's new President Jerry McDowell. Jerry is transferring his membership from the Montague-Whitehall Club. Welcome!



Rita Caviness introduces her guest and work colleague Clara Roche



Bill Erickson introduces former Rotarian Myrna Olsen and her friend Fidel Garcia

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,
& Sue Samaniego

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt
Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern



President Dave presides over the meeting

This Week's Program:



Big Read Lakeshore 2025: Great Lakes— The Comeback Coast

Presenter: Jill M. Ryan, J.D.

Introduced by:

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

RIM Reporter: **Kathy Moore**

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga provided a brief overview of Big Read Lakeshore 2025 before



introducing the guest speaker. Every fall, the Big Read brings people and communities together to foster a culture where “reading matters” and reading together can create change. Numerous events are held throughout Muskegon, Ottawa, and Allegan counties in partnership with libraries, schools, businesses, museums, art centers, and other community nonprofits. Readers will explore the themes of the book as a springboard to share, listen and learn. Sara reported that, “Last year alone, the initiative engaged over 20,000 readers.”



The selected books for this fall include: “I Cheerfully Refuse” by Leif Enger; “A Wish in the Dark” by Christina Soontornvat (middle read group); and

“Journey” a wordless picture book by Aaron Becker (little read group). Sara mentioned that one word to describe the spirit of all three books is “resistance”. Each of the book’s main character is not okay with the world and sets out to search for more. Three upcoming Big Read events were also highlighted:

1. I Cheerfully Refuse: Dystopian Deep Dive with MCC—October 29th at 6:30-8pm [CLICK HERE](#) Or November 5th at 6pm @ Norton Shores MADL Branch [CLICK HERE](#)
2. Author Talk with Leif Enger—November 13th at 6pm @ Overbrook Theater at MCC. [CLICK HERE](#)
3. Big Read Bar Crawl—November 14th at 5:30pm beginning at Rake Beer Project. [CLICK HERE](#)



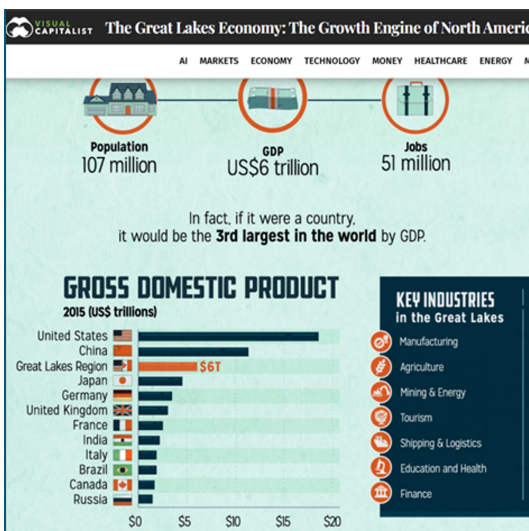
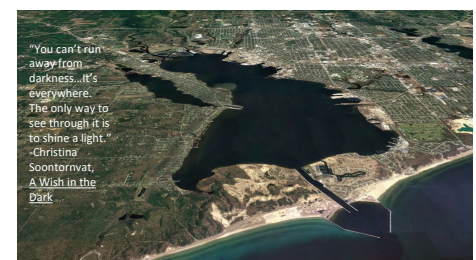
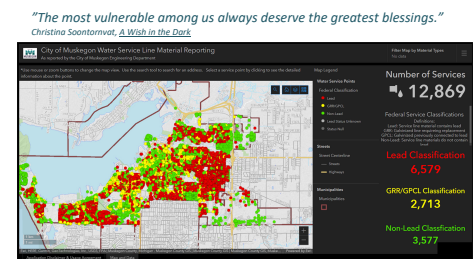
Guest speaker, Jill M. Ryan, J.D., was introduced as someone who shares the spirit of resistance similar to the Big Read protagonist characters. She has held positions with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and has been the Executive Director of FreshWater Future since 2000. Her passion focuses on increasing grassroots capacity to protect waters in the Great Lakes region.

Ms. Ryan kicked off her presentation by declaring that “The Great Lakes is in the middle

of a comeback, and so is Muskegon.” FreshWater Future is a non-profit organization that covers the entire watershed of the Great Lakes, bi-nationally in the United States and Canada.

Over the years, they have helped secure over \$6 billion in grants to assist more than 1,500 local projects, with approximately \$84 million spent towards cleaning up Muskegon Lake. Jill Ryan stated that we should all celebrate that Muskegon Lake is no longer on the areas-of-concern list. But she also cautioned us to stay mindful of PFAS levels, upstream nutrients, pollutants, and other conditions that could impact or harm public access and economic benefits/value. Ms. Ryan concluded by encouraging Rotarians to participate in Big Read activities, learn more about our water lines, get involved in community decisions and continue important conversations.

For more information visit www.bigreadlakeshore.com and www.freshwaterfuture.org To see the full video presentation, click [here](#).



"As enemies go, despair has every ounce of my respect."
-Leif Enger, I Cheerfully Refuse



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	Tom Palmer
Melissa Moore	Dimitri Poland
Arlen-Dean Gaddy	Lisa Kraus
Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga	

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



coming back. They never take a day off, continuing to work after hours to capture new prospects,

college he worked as a Paramedic for 14 years, serving communities in the Eastern UP, Cheboygan County, Lake County, and the Montague-Whitehall area for the last 9 years of being a Paramedic. During that time, he also studied to get his MBA from Western Governors University in 11 months (during Covid had a lot of down time). Wanting to be entrepreneurial and own his own business to serve the community, Dion landed with Farm Bureau Insurance this year and has absolutely fallen in love with it. Dion is looking for more ways to get involved in the Muskegon area and have a greater impact. Dion is sponsored by **Greg Borgman**.

INDUCTIONS

Jeff Dana



FloatMyBiz was founded by Jeff Dana, a West Michigan local who's happiest on a sunny golf course or relaxing by the lakeshore, with a simple mission to help small businesses connect, stand out, and thrive.

FloatMyBiz helps businesses shine online and in their communities with modern websites, smart automations, and marketing that connects. They build and redesign sites that don't just look great but help your business run smoother, with tools like forms, calendars, payments, e-commerce, and custom integrations that keep everything working seamlessly.

FloatMyBiz helps businesses run smoother with smart systems that work quietly in the background. Our automations don't just handle intake, they track prospects, follow up fast, and keep customers

send reminders, book appointments and build lasting relationships while you focus on what matters most. They manage Advertising Campaigns, Google Ads, social media, email, and text campaigns to reach the right people at the right time while boosting visibility through SEO, local listings, and digital signage. Beyond the tech, we partner with local organizations, sponsor events, and help businesses grow together. Jeff is sponsored by **Roger Morgenstern**.

Dion Stumpo



Dion Stumpo was born in the West Suburbs of Chicago and moved to Montague as child. Dion went on to college at Lake Superior State University. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Amy. They have 3 children. After

Brock Johnson



Originally from Grand Rapids, Brock was drawn to Muskegon, where he now lives while pursuing a degree in Business Administration at GVSU. Brock's

commitment to maritime preservation began early; he served as the Director of Operations for the historic SS Milwaukee



Clipper, starting as a volunteer at just 12 years old. Currently, Brock is involved with the SS City of Milwaukee, helping restore the former car ferry. Brock is a dedicated advocate for community service. Notably, during the 2020-2021 pandemic, he coordinated a program to bring snacks and treats to sailors stranded on Great Lakes freighters due to COVID. Most recently, Brock co-founded the Muskegon Maritime Historical Society, a nonprofit organization focused on safeguarding Muskegon's rich maritime assets, both on land and underwater. He is truly a force for preservation and community involvement. Brock is sponsored by **Greg Borgman**.

Marianne Bockheim-Verhil

Marianne, originally from Grand Rapids, Now resides in Cannonsburg Township with her husband. She earned degrees from Grand Rapids Community College, Aquinas College, and DePaul University. She has a varied background in the apparel and cosmetics industries, having written for magazines, produced photoshoots and fashion shows, taught for ten years at the Grand Rapids Community College, and even worked globally as a cosmetic expert with X-Rite Pantone. Following a short hiatus and some time spent in retail, Marianne is now Volunteer Coordinator for Catholic Charities West Michigan where she works in community outreach and volunteer relations. By becoming a member of the Muskegon Rotary, she seeks to increase awareness of the social service programs offered by Muskegon Catholic Charities West Michigan and foster understanding within the community about these initiatives and the ongoing efforts that support them. Marianne is sponsored by **Michele Lipka**.



Rotary In Action -- Doug Wood



Doug Wood chairs the Interact Committee along with Co-Chair John Nolan. Doug said that they would love to add more members to the committee. Our club is committed to youth leadership development with five high school Interact clubs, two middle school Interact clubs, and 3 elementary Earlyact clubs...and they are actively working on adding more. Doug's passion for this role was evident as he wholeheartedly stated *"Rotarians provide true role models for our kids...and the students really respect that. Those kids just love having us there."*

Watch the entire video [here](#)

Announcements

Food Trucks – Need volunteers



Arn Boezaart reminds people to sign up with him for the first of two Feeding America food truck distributions, 4-6 p.m. Oct. 22 at Temple United Methodist Church, across from the main entrance to Muskegon Heights High School at 2500 Jefferson St, Muskegon, MI 49444. Can't make Oct. 22? Mark your calendar for the next distribution April 22.

[Click here to email Arn.](#)



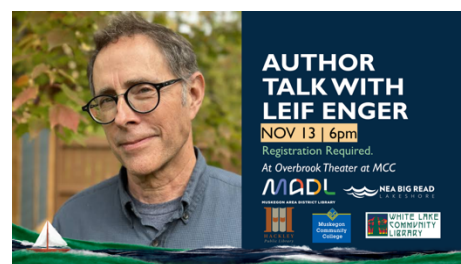
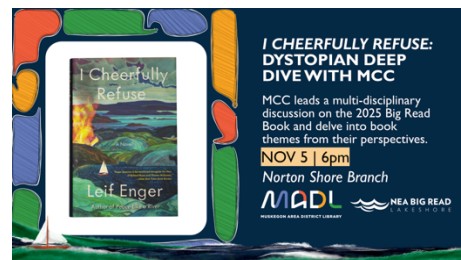
Harvest Fest is almost here and **Roger Morgenstern** invigorates the crowd of Rotarians to buy tickets for the Oct. 23 event! Baker College's Culinary Arts Program will make all the food and help put on the event.

The Big Read Lakeshore



Muskegon Community College's English Honors Students will be hosting a book discussion on "I Cheerfully Refuse" for Rotarians on October 29th, 6:30 - 8 PM at MCC is [Click here to Sign Up.](#) Check out your book at MADL, Hackley, or White Lake libraries so you can get in on the discussion!

If you borrowed a copy of this year's Big Read book, please turn it back in when you are finished so it can be distributed again to the next person on the wait list. Thank you!





Rotary

Harvest Fest

Join Muskegon Rotary Club
for a fall FUNdraising event!

WHEN OCTOBER 23
5-8pm

WHERE THE CIM
The Culinary Institute
of Michigan - Muskegon
336 West Clay Avenue

REGISTER TICKETS
\$85
Scan for tickets



- ▶ Multiple Food Stations
- ▶ Live music
- ▶ Raffle & Auction
- ▶ 1 Free Beverage & Cash Bar
- ▶ Signature Gift

Second Microforest in Muskegon County



Who can say no to **John Noling** especially when he brings native trees to demonstrate to the Rotary Club Board earlier last week what will be planted at the second microforest now underway in North Muskegon. The board gave its



strong, unanimous support to moving forward with the project. Thank you, John, for your incredible energy, leadership and commitment to Rotary, especially to our young emerging leaders!

The rain stopped and the Rotary Club's second microforest got off to a great start Saturday as volunteers worked at the North Muskegon location along Lake Avenue near the Muskegon Causeway.

Rotarians worked alongside volunteers from the location's owner, the Muskegon Environmental Research and Education Society (MERES) and Interact students from Muskegon,

North Muskegon and Reeths-Puffer high schools to pick up trash, lay down cardboard and spread wood chips across the site. In the spring, after that "foundation" has had time to decay, volunteers will plant a large number of native Michigan species, creating a microforest. The Club's first microforest, at Marquette Street and U.S. 31, is going well!



It may seem a bit ironic but two large trees within the new microforest will be removed; but for good reason, the two Norway maple trees are not native and have "black spot" disease, which can negatively affect the surrounding soil.

Many thanks to the more than a dozen people who helped for over four hours Saturday and stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities at both locations!



Scroll to the last page to see more photos!

Board Nominations!



President Dave Alexander announced the club's Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday concluded with nominating **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** and **Arlean Dean-Gaddy** as co-presidents starting July 1, 2028. Co-presidency is a new concept so we will be voting on this in the future to amend our by-laws. The board also nominated **Kelly DeVos** and **John Selmon** to a two-year term on the board and **Martha Fohlbrook** to a three-year term on the board. Members may nominate others and vote at our annual meeting on December 11th.

Assistant Sargent-At-Arms Needed

As Sargent-At-Arms **Ed Hendrickson** continues to recover, **President Dave Alexander** is seeking someone who will take over his duties on a temporary basis as our Assistant Sargent-At-Arms to set up and tear down elements of the meeting before and after lunch each week. Please see Dave, or [click here to email him](#), if you can step forward and fill this important role.

District 6290 Youth Exchange Students Bring the World to Muskegon!

Each year, Rotary Youth Exchange students from across **District 6290** gather in Muskegon for a weekend-long conference dedicated to volunteerism and Rotary's motto of *Service Above Self*. For many of these young leaders—representing countries across the globe—this is their first experience with community service, as volunteerism isn't as common in their home countries as it is here in the United States. This year, our inbound students will share their cultures and talents with the community through a special project that celebrates global connection and local pride. On **Saturday, November 8, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.**, exchange students from **ten different countries** will partner with **Hackley Public Library** in downtown Muskegon to host an **International Story Time**. Children and families are invited to listen to stories read in each student's native language, enjoy fun cultural activities, and sample snacks from around the world. This free, family-friendly event is part of District 6290's annual Youth Exchange conference and a shining example of the **Muskegon Spirit**—where our community comes together to learn, grow, and celebrate the beauty of our shared humanity.



Volunteers Needed – Help with English (Language) Beginners

Rotary volunteer opportunity in the community with Read Muskegon. After losing some funding, volunteers are needed at 5:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays to help beginning level English Language Learners with conversation and reading skills. Training will be provided. Click the link below to contact **Melissa Moore**. [Click here to email Melissa.](#)

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E41: Dr. Paul Lomeo - IndiGrow



In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, we hear from Dr. Paul Lomeo, who transitioned from 35 years in emergency medicine to launching IndiGrow, a family-run cannabis business in Muskegon.

Dr. Lomeo shares his unique perspective on cannabis as a potential medical alternative to opioids. He also addresses lingering stigmas and discusses the challenges and opportunities of a growing industry. This episode offers valuable insights for anyone interested in health, wellness, and entrepreneurship in Michigan.

Listen now at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18012306-dr-paul-lomeo-indigrow>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Rotary ReWine Schedule

5:00-5:15pm Social time
5:15pm Meeting start time
At Core Plaza (Vault)

November 6th

Contact Kaytie Drake
at kaytieely@aol.com for more info

Please welcome potential new members:

Jillian Noterenbrood who is the Director of Events & Partnerships with Hope Network Foundation. Jillian is sponsored by **Kat Hyder** and has been approved the the Muskegon Rotary Board. Jillian will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Bernard Brown Jr. who works with Muskegon Area Intermediate School District. Bernard is sponsored by **Megan Byard-Karaba** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Bernard will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Thomas Foupht who is an IT Manager with the Department of Defense. Thomas is sponsored by **Greg Borgman** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Thomas will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Trevor Friedenbergh who works for Greater Muskegon Economic Development. Trevor is sponsored by **Rich Houtteman** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Trevor will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Zuri LaBrenz who is employed at the Early Owl and is a past Interact Member. Zuri is sponsored by **Claire Root-Benson** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Zuri will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Jerry McDowell who is a transfer member from the Whitehall Rotary Club. Jerry is the current President of Muskegon Catholic Central. Jerry will be introduced and an upcoming meeting in the next few weeks.

Where in Muskegon is Dave Alexander?

This year's fall Brave Rotarian Contest will feature some of President Dave Alexander's favorite places in Muskegon. If you would like to participate in this year's contest, sign-ups will kick off on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Due to our big fundraiser, HarvestFest and the holiday season, this fall's contest will be limited to ten Brave Rotarians. \$100 fulfills your yearly recommended donation to the Muskegon Rotary Foundation and you could win a Paul Harris Fellow in this fun contest. Contact **Meredith Smillie** for further questions or to sign up at msmillie@bethany.org



Festival Fun Includes:

- Pumpkin Decorating 5:00-7:00
- Fun Games in & out of the Pool 5:30-7:30
- Dance Jam in the Gym 6:30-7:00
- Fun for all Ages!
- Costumes? Yes, please!
- RAFFLE for fab NFC prizes! 7:00pm



Bring a bag of treats to add to our treat stash. Bring your own trick-or-treat bag to use. Collect treats at each activity station!

Community Event for all ages!



EST. 2020
NEAL FITNESS CENTER

231-375-7041
900 W. Western Ave.
www.nealfitnesscenter.com

\$5 per person
+ a bag of treats

max \$20 per household



Heart & Sole Race

October 11, 2025

Thank you to the volunteers from Mona Shores, Muskegon, and North Muskegon Rotary Interact clubs for their help in making today's Heart & Sole race a success! Great turnout!

We help the Fruitport Heart ❤️ and Sole Run annually, serving as course marshalls, to benefit Read Muskegon's literacy efforts and other worthy community organizations. Our thanks 🙏 to Read Muskegon Director **Melissa Moore** and Race organizers. Lots of fun for a great cause.

NEW TEAM MEMBER BONUS!

Don't miss out on these offers for you and your household members!

- Free, Full-access Day Pass
- Waived Member Initiation Fees Save \$50/membership

Celebrate our partnership and join us!
★ Redeem within 30 days of your start date ★



nealfitnesscenter.com

Fitness Classes
Open & Lap Swim
Aquatic Classes
Waterfront Activities
Weight & Cardio Zones
Open Gym
Basketball, Pickleball
Racquetball
Suana
Indoor Walking Track
Babysitting Service
Seasonal Waterfront Boating & Fishing



Greg Borgman's nice photo with the two new Rotarians he sponsored, **Dion Stumpo** and **Brock Johnson**, got an added participant with a photo bomb from **Bill Loxterman**. Leave it to **Lox** to keep things light and fun!

Microforest Pictures from Saturday, October 18, 2025



