

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, October 8, 2026

October 15, 2026, Lasagna at the Lake House Program – Winter Paralympics

What's Coming

October 22—No noon meeting—
--attend Harvest Fest!

October 29—Webb Chemical and
Trace Analytics

November 5—AI: History, Benefits, &
Ethical Considerations

Upcoming Birthdays

October 16 Jackie Fisher

October 16 Chauncy Williams

October 17 Myra Dutton

October 18 Bridgette Zappacosta



Caring

Connections Fund

[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Tiffany Dupont Novak

Greeters This Week

Ryan Sterkenberg &
Dennis Atkinson

Reflector This Week

Susan Crain



RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Jackie Farrar

RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego

RIM Editor – Susan Besteman



President Elect Lisa Tyler starts the meeting while President Roger Morgenstern is away this week.

Muskegon Rotary Board

President: Roger Morgenstern

President-Elect: Lisa Tyler

President Nominees: Arlen Dean-Gaddy and Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

Past President: Dave Alexander

Treasurer: Kim Taylor

Secretary: Joanie Smith

Directors:

Kelli DeVos

Dimitri Poland

Martha Fohlbrook

Esther Ricco

Lisa Kraus

Samantha Scott

Melissa Moore

John Selmon

Club Coordinator: Kim Boersema

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

Visitors and Guests



John Noling introduces Kaytie Drake and guest Jerry Hopkins



Qianlan Hagen guest of Logan Metcalf



Patricia Brown, Mitze Alexander, and Jessica Larson guests of Greg Sisco

Muskegon Rotary Oct. 8th

YouTube Video:

[Click Here](#)



Sue Samaniego with guest Amanda Nikon (Grants Coordinator at MCC)



Martha Fohlbrook with guest Meah Bajt



Emerson DeBoer, guest (and daughter) of **Pete DeBoer**



Larry Fife with his wife Lynette Fife



Jackie Huss, guest of **Missy Horton**



Rebekah Taylor, guest of **Greg Borgman**

Student Guests



Marty Systema with student guests from Muskegon High School. To introduce two high-achieving student-athlete seniors, is Student Athlete Counselor, Josh Hall. Josh introduced his niece, Dynasty Bell (headed to Florida Golf Coast University with a full ride student athlete scholarship) and like-a-son Tyson Worthington (looking to pursuing an engineering degree).

ReWine Meeting Schedule

5:00 p.m. Social Time
Meeting starts 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, October 15th

Pigeon Hill Brewing Company
895 Fourth Street, Muskegon

Thursday, November 5th

Lake Effect
Bistro & Lounge (Shoreline Inn)
750 Terrace Point Dr., Muskegon

Thursday, November 19th

Muskegon Museum of Art, 315
West Clay Avenue, Muskegon

RSVP by Wednesday at 5pm

prior to each meeting by contacting
Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com
Total # attending, including guests



Bill showed up at this month's Past President's breakfast fully in support of Harvest Fest. Join him and many others on Oct. 22!

This Week's Program: A Look Back at the Life Leadership Conference

Rotary International District 6290 Life Leadership Conference

"I came skeptical,
I left **INSPIRED** to make a difference.

I came ignorant: I left with a **broader perspective**.

I came an aspiring leader;
I left with the **passion and skills to make a difference.**"

**Speakers: John Noling &
Stephanie Tushek**

Introduced by: **Lisa Tyler**

RIM Reporter: **Sue Samaniego**

John Noling kicked off the program with a video (<https://youtu.be/wBJfFoCAQJw?si=whmqWagEfRlb4Z-V>) from the 77th Life Leadership Conference. It was held at Ferris State University on June 3-6, 2026. The video featured students relating what they gained from the conference and photos of activities.

C.W. "Stub" Bemer, Muskegon Rotary president 1941-1942) started this program in June of 1949 at Camp Emory. Sixty boys attended the conference. *Rotarian* magazine printed a

four-page feature on Life Leadership in 1951.



[CLICK HERE](#)

Featured in the April 1951 *Rotarian* Magazine on page 28, initiated and led by Muskegon Rotary as a District Youth Leadership program in 1949, serving two Rotary Districts at the time. Now celebrating its 77th year in a collegiate setting with males and females. John stated, "We stand on the shoulders of giants...". This was a different era!



William Austin (Club President and District Governor) kept the Life Leadership Conference going through the 60's and 70's. Rotary officially adopted the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards in 1971. Now 528 districts participate.

Early Conferences moved around to different venues until Norm Velliquette of the Elk Rapids Rotary club (1993-94 District Governor) helped to settle it into its current home at

Ferris State University. Fifty-one Rotary clubs bring students. Jeff Coil and **Brianna Scott**, as well as previous Life Leadership Conference chairs and District Governors continue to support this effort. Howard Oesterling was camp director and speaker emeritus for many years. He sadly passed away last week. There are over 7,300 alumni of the District 6290 Life Leadership Conference. Rotary District 6290 looks each year for high school students who are outstanding school and/or community leaders with a strong service background to apply. The Life Leadership Conference works to encourage students to be more effective servant leaders.



Attendees are typically high school sophomores or juniors. During their time, they hear from outstanding speakers – motivational speakers, Rotary speakers, past participants. They also learn about leadership styles and participate in leadership simulations and activities. There is a focus on gaining international perspectives and networking. The call is to be yourself, learn from others, and take it back to your community.



The Conferee of the Year is voted on by peers at the Conference. The 2026 Conferee of the Year is Ava Williams from North Muskegon High School. There have been several other students from our area who have received this honor in the past. As with any impactful venture, it takes an army to make this happen. Shoutouts were given to current District LLC Co-Chairs Rhonda Lamburg and John Noling; Muskegon Rotary LLC Co-Chair **Stephanie Tushek**; **Kaytie Drake, Tennille Woodward**, Ava Bentley, and everyone who helps with transportation, interviews, funding, etc. Another shoutout was given to John and Sue Noling who ran the camp for many years.



From a past average of 10 students to a record 38 students from the Muskegon area this year, Muskegon Rotary is building the leaders of the future. Currently, it costs \$400 per student to cover the meeting space, dorms, and meals for the Conference. (It was \$35 in 1949.) Muskegon Rotary is getting its money's worth!



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



Spotlight Video Rachel Gorman



Rachel Gorman, President and CEO of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, shares what she values most about Muskegon Rotary: positive people committed to solving community problems. Rachel reflects on how Rotary's Four-Way Test influences her leadership and encourages Rotarians to reach beyond familiar viewpoints. Her message is simple and timely—invite someone with a different perspective, share a meal, have an honest conversation, and look for the common ground that can lead to a shared vision. Rotarians in Action celebrates the people who put Rotary's values into practice throughout the Muskegon community.

Watch the video [here!](#)

Announcements In Memory & Honor

On October 15, the Club will honor the memories of three recently deceased Muskegon Rotarians: Ara (Doc) Demirjian, Kevin Donovan, and Ed Hendrickson. There will be a brief presentation during the Club meeting followed by a formal dedication of their memorial bricks at Rotary Park at 2:00 p.m. Please join us!

Announcements



Thurs., Oct. 22nd at 5 – 8pm
Baker College

Culinary Institute of Michigan
336 West Clay Ave., Muskegon
[Harvest Fest 2026 Tickets](#)
[Eventbrite](#)

Ticket includes admission to the event, one complimentary drink ticket, all-you-can-eat food, and a surprise gift to take home at the end of the evening!

Volunteers Needed—[CLICK HERE](#)
Sponsors Needed—[CLICK HERE](#)

***No Lunch Meeting on Oct. 22nd—
Attend Harvest Fest!**

In lieu of the weekly raffle sale at our **October 15th** lunch meeting, Harvest Spirits raffle tickets will be on sale. The Harvest Spirits Raffle drawing will be held at 7:30 p.m. during Harvest Fest. You do not need to be present to win.



**Harvest Fest
Beverage Bundles Raffle***
October 8 and October 15
\$20 for one ticket
\$35 for two tickets
\$50 for three tickets
**Each bundle is valued at
more than \$150 up to \$199!**



Carla Flanders
provides Harvest
Fest updates,
highlights a few
items on the
silent auction
table, and gives
many thanks to folks who have given
in a variety of ways to this event.



Microforest Help Needed Oct 17th

Rotary and Rotaract Volunteers are needed for October 17, anytime between 9 am and Noon, at the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve Microforest, 2529 Lake Avenue in North Muskegon.

This is a fall work bee to plant strawberry plugs, weed around existing trees and shrubs, spread new cardboard and bark chip a beautiful extension to the existing microforest.

We could use up to 20 volunteers. Please let **John Noling** or **Doug Wood** know if you can join us. Please bring family or friends who love the idea of planting a new forest for the planet.

This is our big chance to get everything ready for winter. Gloves, tools, and refreshments provided. One hour service or more welcome!

Muskegon Rotary is a solid partner with the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve non-profit for this Environmental Stewardship initiative.



Kids' Food Basket

Kids Food Basket -- Volunteer Oct. 19th Noon

Tennille Woodward is looking for more volunteers for our monthly Kids' Food Basket commitment. See Tennille if you are available October 19th at noon to help or in the upcoming months. Our schedule is the 3rd Monday of every month—ten people needed each time.

Caring Connections

Please inform the Caring Connections Crew if you hear of anyone in our club who may need us to send them congrats, bereavement, or any kind of special achievement note.

Honduras Trip – Mar. 13th



Interested in learning more about the Rotary's Library Build Project with Chispa in Honduras March 13-20th? Trip details/registration can be found here: <https://www.chispaproject.org/lago>
You have a chance to hear from Sara Brakhane, Chispa's Director, on Oct 20th at 6 PM for a zoom call as she reviews the upcoming trip and answers your questions. Sara will also be Muskegon Rotary's program speaker on November 12th.

Link to Oct 20th virtual meeting:
meet.google.com/oqi-tksi-tah
Deadline to register for the Honduras trip is Nov 30th. Questions? Talk with **Linda Juarez**, **Susan Crain**, or **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga**.



Reimagining International Projects What Your Partners Wish You Knew

An interactive workshop to explore how power imbalances shape international aid—and learn practical strategies for building trust, strengthening local leadership, and sharing power more equitably.



Who: For Rotarians from West Michigan



Presenter: Sara Brakhane, Executive Director of Chispa Project



When: Nov 11th, 6-8 PM



Where: Muskegon Area District Library Headquarters
4845 Airline Road, Muskegon, MI 49444



RSVP to Susan Cloutier-Crain
susanccrainmkg@gmail.com
Co-Chair of Muskegon Rotary's World Services Committee

El Salvador Trip – March 31st



Our Club is looking for Rotarians and Interact students to attend two service trips: Honduras from March 13-20 and El Salvador from March 31-April 8. Your Club's board has approved contributing \$500 for any Rotarians attending their first overseas trip, as well as \$500 for any Interactors wanting to go. Please spread the word! For more information, see **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** about Honduras or **Esther Ricco** about El Salvador.

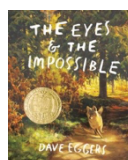
It's Big Read Season!

The Lakeshore Big Read books are available. Big Read is a county wide reading initiative. During Oct and Nov our community reads a set of books connected by a shared theme. The 4 books this year:

Big Read: The Circle, by Dave Eggers



Middle Read: The Eyes and the Impossible, by Dave Eggers



Little Read: What Can a Citizen Do, by Eggers.



Books this year are connected through the theme "Our Choices Matter" and all by award-winning author, Dave Eggers, who will be coming to Muskegon on Nov 17th. Rotary's DEI Committee has purchased the books to encourage Rotarians to participate in this community conversation. For the next several weeks we'll have books available before and after Rotary—first come first served!

<https://madl.org/blogs/post/big-read-lakeshore-2026/>

Past President **Dave Alexander** encourages members to purchase Harvest Fest tickets and attend both events (Community Foundation & Harvest Fest)



DEI Committee – Know Your Voting Rights

Know Your Voting Rights!

- Understand your rights as a voter
- Know what to expect at the polls
- Learn when, where, and how to vote
- Learn what to do if you experience discrimination or intimidation at the polls

Panelists:

Karen Whitehouse (Muskegon County Clerk)
Lori Hayes (Muskegon County Election Director)
Marria McIntosh (Thredz.org)
Meghan Cullen (American Civil Liberties Union)

Moderator:

Dave Alexander (Retired Journalist)

Read Muskegon

2709 Peck St.
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444
Tuesday, Oct. 20th 6:30-8pm

FREE EVENT

Light Refreshments Provided
Muskegon Rotary Club with support from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County



Below are the links to the Facebook event and the SignUpGenius form to RSVP.

Facebook Event:

https://www.facebook.com/share/1DsCp_hfnXY/

Sign Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-66224770-know#/>

The SignUpGenius RSVP is in the Facebook event description, and the QR Code on the flyer also links to it. Please distribute and share with your networks. See **Brad Hastings** for questions.



Muskegon Rising



Breakfast Items are Needed

Joanie Smith is looking for volunteers to

help with breakfast items for the youth retreat. Please reach out to her if you're able to assist.

Help Us Tell Roger Morgenstern's Story – Brave Rotarians Contest

Following our Harvest Fest Fundraiser, we're kicking off the fall Brave Rotarians Contest—and we're looking for storytellers! Share a brief memory, anecdote, or reflection about Roger Morgenstern. Whether your story is inspiring, meaningful, or simply captures what makes Roger memorable, we'd love to hear it. Help us celebrate Roger's impact by sending your story to Meredith Smillie at meredithasmillie@gmail.com. To participate in the Brave Rotarians Contest, make a \$100 gift to fulfill your suggested contribution to The Rotary Foundation. Your entry could win you a Paul Harris Fellow Award! More details, including sign-up sheets, are coming soon. Questions? Contact **Meredith Smillie** at meredithasmillie@gmail.com or call her.



Ratan Khatri shares an upcoming network community purchasing event for women on October 14th at 6:00pm

Still Searching for Life Leadership Students

Tenille Woodward is looking for more high school students for the Muskegon Student Leadership Conference which is a pre-emptive event to Life Leadership in the summer. Only one student has signed up so far so if you know of any high school student, please nominate them to Tenille for the conference on Friday, November 20th.

David W. Hogan DDS

Dec. 20, 1930 – Aug. 10, 2026



<https://www.clockfuneralhome.com/obituaries/david-hogan>

Registration is Open!

**Barcelona, Spain
June 26-30, 2027**

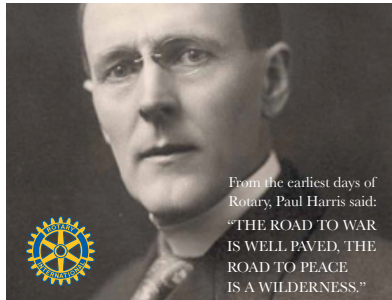
[Rotary International Convention](https://convention.rotary.org)

OPEN A DOOR for a student leader.		
Donate one thing. Introduce us to one person. Sponsor one experience.		
FEED THEM	Sponsor a meal, pizza, snacks or drinks.	EST. VALUE \$3,000+
EQUIP THEM	Provide bags, water bottles, journals, pens or shirts.	EST. VALUE \$4,000+
CHALLENGE THEM	Donate supplies for one of our six leadership experiences.	EST. VALUE \$750-\$1,000
REWARD THEM	Donate gift cards or prizes.	EST. VALUE \$500-\$1,000
HOST THEM	Provide one of our six downtown learning spaces.	EST. VALUE \$500-\$2,000
MOVE THEM	Help with transportation to and from the event.	EST. VALUE \$500-\$1,500
PRINT IT	Sponsor signage, badges and conference materials.	EST. VALUE \$500-\$1,000
FUND IT	Make a financial contribution toward whatever remains.	EST. VALUE ANY AMOUNT

Organized by Muskegon Rotary
Powered by Community
Connect + Collaborate + Lead + Make an Impact

THE QUEST FOR WORLD UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE

HAS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF ROTARY SINCE ITS EARLY DAYS



From the earliest days of Rotary, Paul Harris said: "THE ROAD TO WAR IS WELL PAVED, THE ROAD TO PEACE IS A WILDERNESS."

RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed that an endowment be set up "for the purpose of doing good in the world." In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than US\$5,000 it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

1917

At their convention in Edinburgh, Scotland, Rotarians unanimously agreed to incorporate peace-making into Rotary's constitution and by-laws with these words, "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world of fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service."



1921

Rotarians again made a significant contribution to peacemaking at their convention in Havana, Cuba by adopting a resolution calling for "freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights" that became the framework for the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



1940

A committee was formed to develop the concept of an educational center, institute, or university dedicated to Paul Harris as a way of commemorating the 50th anniversary of his death in 1947.



1996

The RI Trustees approved the plan to partner with universities to establish the Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution. The Rotary Peace Centers committee considered more than 100 universities and selected seven based on criteria such as geographic diversity, superior faculty and an established two year master's degree program with a core curriculum in international relations, peace, and conflict resolution.



1999

Rotary clubs from 21 nations organized a conference in London to develop a vision for advancing education, science and culture after World War II. This meeting led the international dialogues on reconstructing education around the world once WWII was over, and served as a precursor to UNESCO.



1942

In April 1945, Rotary was at the forefront of arguably one of the most important meetings of the 20th Century, the finalizing of the charter of the United Nations in San Francisco. Rotary was invited to attend as an observer organization. Rotary provided 11 official observers to the US delegation alone – only one other organization had more than three. *A Century of Service, The Story of Rotary International* by David C. Forward.

1945

The United Nations Universal Declaration for Human Rights was finalized using the framework and guidelines from the 1940 Rotary International Convention in Havana.



1948

Rotary builds peace through its single largest and most significant project: PolioPlus. To date, Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than \$1 billion toward the eradication of polio. Polio once infected more than 350,000 children annually. In 2011, only 650 cases were reported, and in 2012 only 223.



1985

The City of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia was declared the first Rotary Peace City in the world. Now there are over sixty Rotary Peace Cities.



1992

India was removed from the World Health Organization's list of countries plagued by Polio.

Issue of Rotarian Magazine entitled "Making Peace."

Rotarian Action Group for Peace recognized by Rotary International: rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

Rotary Theme: Peace Through Service



2012-2013

Rotary Global Peace Forums

Berlin, Germany
Peace Without Borders
Nov 30 - Dec 2, 2012

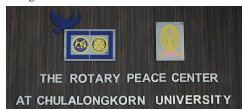
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
The Green Path to Peace
Jan 25 - 27, 2013

Hiroshima, Japan
Peace Begins with You
May 17 - 18, 2013

Since the first graduating class in 2004, over 700 graduates have emerged from the programs. Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities.

A 3-month peace studies certificate program was launched, serving as an addition to the Rotary Peace Centers program. The program enhances Rotary's existing work to support international peace studies.

The certificate program attracts middle to upper-level professionals who can arrange to be away from their employment for just a few months.



2006

The 10th Class of Rotary Peace Fellows was selected. In 2002, less than half of all Rotary Districts submitted applications; to date over 88% of all Rotary Districts have endorsed qualified applicants.



2010



2004



Mission Statement

To provide a platform for people to become intentional in positive and sustainable peacebuilding within themselves, their communities, and our world. We are committed to Rotary International's objective of creating a global fellowship that advances international understanding, goodwill, and peace, joined in the ideal of service.

Who Can Join?

Membership is open to individuals who support the mission of the Rotary Action Group for Peace and are committed to promoting peace. You do not need to be a Rotarian or Rotaractor to join.

Membership Levels

\$20 - Basic Membership
\$100 - Contributor Membership
\$5 - Rotaractor Membership
\$5 Rotary Peace Fellow Membership

Benefits of Joining

Networking, Project Support, Events & Conferences, Community Engagement, Educational Resources, Empowerment & Awareness, News & Updates, Leadership Opportunities

LEARN MORE!



Join at: www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

Erin Thomas, Program Manager
Rotary Peace Fellow (2003-2004)
Tel: +1 503-367-4223
contact@rotariansforpeace.org
rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

Here is where you can find us:
'Like' us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/RotarianActionGroupForPeace

Follow us on Twitter!
[@RtnsForPeace](https://twitter.com/RtnsForPeace)

The Rotarian Action Group for Peace is not an agency of, nor controlled by, Rotary International.