

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, September 10, 2026

September 17, 2026, Chicken Alfredo at the Lakehouse Program – The Hope Project

What's Coming

September 24—Peace Builders

International Peace Day

October 1— Muskegon County Parks

Millage Information

Upcoming Birthdays

September 22 Adam Bell

September 22 Josh Karafa

September 23 Kippy Ellis

September 23 Stacey Gomez



Caring

Connections Fund

[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Tiffany Dupont

Greeters This Week

Don Kalisz and Jonathan Scouten

Reflector This Week

Eric Seifert

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Wyatt Huggett

RIM Reporter – Jackie Farrar

RIM Editor – Ginny Sprague



President Roger opens the meeting, wearing a green shirt and khaki pants, an homage to his days at Muskegon Catholic Central and our first student guests of the 2026-2027 Rotary year.

Muskegon Rotary Board

Officers:

Roger Morgenstern, President

Lisa Tyler, President-Elect

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga & Arlen-Dean Gaddy,
President Nominees

Dave Alexander, Past President

Kimberly Taylor, Treasurer

Joanie Smith, Secretary

Directors:

Kelly DeVos

Dimitri Poland

Martha Fohlbrook

Esther Ricco

Lisa Kraus

Samantha Scott

Melissa Moore

John Selmon

Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

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

Reflection



Eric Seifert offered suggestions to truly engage with your fellow Rotarians and make our Club more welcoming and a better experience for all.

Visitors and Guests



Dom Bunker introduces Inbound Exchange student Bennett Lipecky, who is from Berlin, Germany and attends Mona Shores High School.

Muskegon Rotary Sept. 10

YouTube Video:

[Click Here](#)

Visitors and Guests



Chad Lawie and his guests, LeeAnn Lawie, his wife and co-host for their Inbound Exchange student Maria Rorato, from Foz, Brazil.



Alex Fonseca and his guest Brianna Fonseca, his wife and Fresh Coat Painters Office Manager



Representative Will Snyder introduces his office Policy Director, Jason Coiella.



Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga introduces her guest, Marisela Sierra, owner of Navarro's Mexican Take-Out.



Greg Borgman introduces his good friend, Deb Drake Vice President of HR for Hines Corporation.



Marcia Hovey-Wright introduces **Charmian Dewy**, Visiting Rotarian from the Orange Park Sunrise Club in Florida.

Student Guests



Marty Sytsema welcomes our student guests from Muskegon Catholic Central. Pictured L-R: Aaron Portenga, Dean of Student Success, and seniors, Charlotte and Maximus.

rotary
youth
exchange

Program

Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange Students

Introduction: **Dom Baker**
Speakers: Bennett Lipecky,
Maria Rorato, and
Laura Cunningham



Dom Baker introduces our program welcoming two of our Inbound Exchange Students

Today, we had the opportunity to hear from two inbound exchange students, Bennett from Germany and Maria from Brazil. Although both students have been in the United States for about three weeks, they shared wonderful insights about their home countries, families, and experiences so far.



Bennett Lipecky, Inbound Exchange Student from Germany.

Bennett started the presentation by sharing information about his family and their love of tennis. He also provided some background about his hometown and mentioned his favorite food, kebab, which he enjoys at least once a week. In addition, he discussed common misconceptions people may have about Germany and highlighted some of the differences he has noticed between Germany and the United States.



Maria Rorato Inbound Exchange Student from Brazil.

Maira followed Bennett, sharing photos of her family, friends, and her excitement about her exchange experience. She spoke about the importance of soccer in Brazil and her love for the sport. She also shared fun facts about her country and walked the group through each of the photos below, encouraging everyone to visit Brazil someday.



Both students are currently attending school and are looking forward to making the most of their time here. Bennett attends Mona Shores HS, and Maria attends North Muskegon HS.

Dom announced that our third Inbound Exchange student received his Visa last week and will be soon. He will be staying with **Laura Cunningham**, our next speaker.



Speaker **Laura Cunningham**

Laura encouraged members to connect with and support the exchange students through a variety of opportunities during their stay, e.g., fishing, skiing, hockey, travel in the US, and other activities you think our exchange students will enjoy.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about ways to get involved and share your experiences with our inbound students.



This Week's Birthdays



Rotary in Action Samantha Scott



New to the Muskegon Rotary Board, **Samantha Scott** chairs the Membership and Retention Committee and spoke about the importance of keeping club members engaged and helping new members feel welcomed and actively involved in Rotary. Engaged members will embrace the mission of Rotary, recognizing the many long-term members who exemplify the power of Rotary's mission of service.

Currently, the Committee is working to improve the application process by making the application easier to find, fill out, and submit. Other tasks include reviewing member data for accuracy, especially why members join or leave the Club, and providing leadership to the navigators so they can better serve new members in the Red Star program.

Samantha stated that she cares deeply about her community, and the best way to show that care is to get involved through Muskegon Rotary.

Muskegon Rising Podcast S3E17: Jerry Farley Oakmont Education



In this episode, host DJ Hilson speaks with Jerry Farley of Oakmont Education about the evolving mission of Muskegon Covenant Academy.

Farley details a career-tech education model centered on work-based learning, sustained business partnerships, and post-graduation support, all designed to give students a direct route to economic mobility. The conversation highlights how this approach benefits not only individual students but the broader Muskegon workforce, reinforcing the kind of community and economic development work Rotary members support.

Watch:

<https://youtu.be/OILc3wFwZ7Q?si=E90Z43fFE--urQ2G>

Listen:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/19804577>

Presidential Announcements



President Roger began his announcements thanking the volunteers, including some first-time Rotarians, who took time out of their Labor Day holiday to help place more than 100 US Flags along Seaway Drive. Special thanks to **John Noling** for recruiting our student volunteers: **Delonte, Tobias, Brianna-Lynn, Cole, and Bear**. (Photo on page 6.)

1. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day, the last time to display the flags in 2026.

2. **John Noling and Doug Wood** need a few volunteers to help staff the powder rooms at Irish Fest next week along with our Interact students. Adults are needed for the Friday and Saturday late shifts.

3. At the **Rotary Foundation Board** meeting earlier this week, your Board made two significant funding decisions. We will contribute up to \$1,200 for a Shelter Box temporary housing

President's announcements continued

unit for Rotary International's response to the devastating floods in Nepal. We will provide links in the next RIM for individual contributions.

The **Board** also approved \$5,000 for repairs to the *Harmony Park* musical instruments at several locations in Muskegon and Muskegon Heights. Due to vandalism at most of the sites, \$8,000 is needed to address the necessary repairs. **Susan Crain** and **Roger** are working to solicit community contributions for the needed repairs.

4. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, **President-Elect Lisa Tyler** can add one of two more members to join current members **Tim Arter**, **Tennille Woodward**, **Nancy McCarthy**, and **Arlen Dean Gaddy**. The Committee will meet in September to create a list of Rotarians to fill open board seats and be considered as the next President Nominee, who would become President on July 1, 2029. If you are interested and not on this list, please contact Lisa.

5. ReWine will meet on Thursday, September 17 at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, at Socibowl, 441 West Western Avenue. Please RSVP to **Kaytie Drake**.

To help with ReWine's I-96 highway clean up on September 26, please see page 7 for details.

Announcements



Darlene Collet encouraged members to attend the Rotary Night Out on the Milwaukee Clipper on Tuesday, **September 22, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Please RSVP on SignUp Genius. [Click here to sign up](#)
Find more information on page 6.



Carla Flanders promotes Harvest Fest looking for sponsors to help meet their \$30,000 goal. They are still looking for Silent Auction donations, beer and wine donations for the beverage bundles, and please **purchase tickets!**



Tennille Woodward made three important announcements:

With school back in session, she is looking for volunteers to help at Kids Food Basket on **Monday, September 21 at noon**. Please see Tennille to volunteer.



Tennille is seeking Rotarian partnerships with the Innovation Academy at Muskegon HS for job shadowing opportunities for students. See SignUp Genius for more information. [Click here for more information](#)

Finally, Tennille is looking for volunteers for the upcoming Muskegon Student Leadership Conference on **November 20 – 21** in downtown Muskegon at six different locations. She also needs donations to help with meals and supplies for the event.



Thank you, Flag Corp!



Many thanks to the volunteers who placed 100 flags along Seaway Drive on Labor Day.

Please volunteer to join the Flag Corp on **Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day**. This is the last opportunity for this patriotic service in the 2026, our semiquincentennial celebratory year!

rotary
youth
exchange

**Help Find
Our Next
Rotary**

Exchange Students! Come meet our prospective exchange students and join us for Interview Day!

Sunday, September 20, 2026 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Volunteering for interviews is a great way to support Youth Exchange, meet the students interested in representing our community abroad, and help us select our next group of outbound exchange students. You do not need to be a member of the Youth Exchange Committee to help.

Interested in volunteering for Interview Day? Sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/GetConnectedMuskegonRotary>



Rotary Night Out on The Milwaukee Clipper!

Who: All Rotarians, Interact, Rotaract and their family and friends

What: Rotary social event on the S.S. Milwaukee Clipper, "the Queen of the Great Lakes" a 361-foot floating National Historic Landmark Museum built in 1904.

.Where: 2098 Lakeshore Drive at the end of McCracken in Lakeside.

When: Tuesday, September 22, 2026,
5:30pm – 7:30pm

What Do I Receive?

- Enjoy the comradery of Rotary members and their guests in a relaxed atmosphere outside of the meeting setting.
- Free Admission
- Tours of the Ship's museum, theater, dance floor, horseshoe bar, gift shop, dining area and Captains quarters. *
- Appetizers, water and adult beverages
- Free ice cream in the Soda Bar
- Many other attractions to see and experience on this floating landmark.

How Much Does it Cost: FREE

* The ship does not have an elevator, and there are steps that may limit where a person can visit.



Polio eradication efforts reported as of 09.14.26 * 25 cases in Afghanistan and four cases in Pakistan.

Total cases for 2026 is 29.

The total cases for 2025 is 35.

*Source: Rotary Foundation
Confirmed Global Wild Virus Type 1
WHO HG

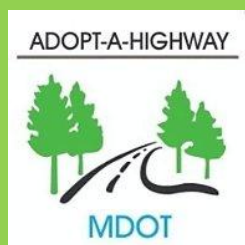
Rim Reporting Team

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, and Emily Morgenstern

Looking for Volunteers



Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on **Saturday, September 26.**

Volunteers will meet promptly at 7:30am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. We need two drivers to drive along with the volunteers who are picking trash. We will finish no later than 10:00 am.

Please contact Esther Ricco, estherricco@hotmail.com or 616-283-1810 for more details.

ReWine Meeting Schedule

5:00 p.m. social time

Meeting starts 5:15 p.m.

Thursday September 17th at the Socibowll, 441 West Western Avenue

Thursday October 1st at Lake Effect

Bistro and Lounge (located off the main lobby of the Shoreline Inn)
750 Terrace Point Drive

Thursday October 15th at Pigeon Hill

Brewing Company, 895 4th Street
RSVP by Wednesday at 5pm
prior to each meeting by contacting Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com
(Total # attending including guests)

The Soul Box Project Comes to Muskegon

A Lakeshore Community Memorial and Gun-Violence Awareness Display



You are invited to view the Soul Box Project, a Gun Violence Awareness Display, created by Muskegon Central United Methodist Church, 1011 Second Street, Muskegon, MI 49440.
Sept 22nd - Oct 8th
Select dates and times
Free and Open to the Public
Come. Remember. Reflect. Learn.

Open to the Muskegon's Lakeshore Communities and Surrounding Areas



#BUILD LOVE

The Soul Box Project Comes to Muskegon

A LAKESHORE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL AND GUN-VIOLENCE AWARENESS DISPLAY

Hosted by Central United Methodist Church • 1011 Second Street, Muskegon, MI 49440

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September 20	21	22 10-2pm	23 10-2pm	24 10-2pm	25	26 10-4pm
27	28 5-7pm	29 10-2pm	30 10-2pm	October 1 10-2pm	2	3
4 12-4pm	5 5-7	6 10-2pm	7 10-2pm	8 10-2pm	9	10



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

COME. REMEMBER. REFLECT. LEARN.



Muskegon Rising



October 22, 2026

5—8 pm

The CIM The Culinary Institute of Michigan- Muskegon

336 West Clay Avenue

Muskegon, MI 49440

[Harvest Fest 2026 Tickets,](#)
[Thursday, October 22 • 5 PM - 8 PM | Eventbrite](#)