

# 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

September 11, 2025

**Next Meeting (September 18, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Italian Sandwiches at the Lake House**  
**Program Topic – PFAS in Muskegon County**

## What's Coming

September 18 – PFAS in Muskegon County

September 25 – Muskegon River Assembly

## Upcoming Birthdays

September 19	Kathy Covington
September 19	Todd Rexford
September 20	Kaitlin Hermanson
September 20	Nicolas Morano
September 22	Adam Bell
September 22	Josh Karafa
September 23	Stacey Gomez
September 24	John Noling

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeters This Week

Joseph Zappacosta  
Carla Flanders

## Reflector This Week

Lisa Tyler

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Wyatt Huggett  
RIM Reporter – Roger Morgenstern  
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



President Dave Alexander opens the meeting and reflects on recent national events.

## Reflection



Lisa Tyler offers the reflection.

## Visitors & Guests



Dayne Robinson with guest and wife, Jacqui Robinson.



Mike Vogas with his guests: Kyle Hardie, Andy Achterhoff, Dana Olsen, and Gale Margaret.



**Marcia Hovey-Wright** with guest Sara Cooper.



**Joe Zappacosta** with guest Christina LeVey-Rowland.



**Tiffany Dupont Novak** with guest Kristina McCloskey.



**Jill Bonthuis** with guest Amy Deming.



**Ammy Seymour** with guest Madison Monroe.



**Annette Jack** with guest Mary Beth Liskey.



**Doug Wood** with guest Tennille Woodward.



**Marty Sytsema** introduces students and faculty from Muskegon Catholic School.

### 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](#):



**Dave Alexander** recognizes **Andrew Cutler's** work on *Parties in the Park*, which raised over \$10,000 for Rotary. More volunteers are needed for next year!

9/11/2025 Muskegon Rotary  
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)



**President Dave Alexander's** "Muskegon Minute" focuses on the debate over the tentative development of Fisherman's Landing Campground—encouraging members to get informed and engaged.

## Induction



**Randy Lindquist** introduced his friend and former Intermediate School District colleague **Ronald Koehler** as our newest member.

Ron Koehler and his wife Jeanne moved to Harbour Towne in September of 2024 following Koehler's retirement from Kent ISD, an education service agency serving some 100,000 students in 20 public school districts, 27 charter schools and preschool programs throughout the community.

Koehler served Kent ISD from 1996 until his retirement last June. He was superintendent for the last four years of his service at Kent ISD. During his tenure at Kent ISD, he supervised communications, legislative activities, truancy and community outreach. As superintendent, he began an initiative to double career and technical education for students throughout the region and supervised special education programs and campuses across Kent County, with responsibilities for staff, building maintenance, food service and transportation.

Ron and Jeanne enjoy cooking, the outstanding recreational activities in this area and spending time with their children and seven grandchildren. Jeanne had a career in marketing and advertising before her retirement.



**Dave Alexander** welcomes Ron Koehler as the newest Rotary member.



Sponsor **Randy Lindquist** with new **Muskegon Rotary member** Ron Koehler.

## This Week's Program:



### Presenters:

**Mike Vogas, Gary Nelund, Gale Margaret, Andy Achterhoff, D.J. Hilson, Kyle Hardie, and Dana Olsen**

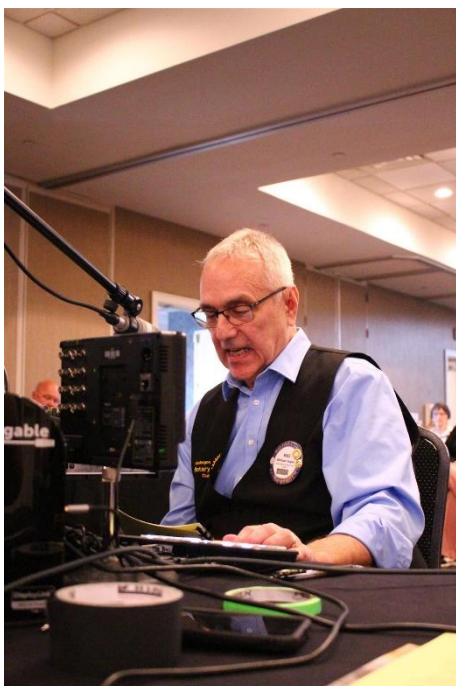
### Introduction:

**Melissa Horton**



**Melissa Horton** introduces the program.

We were treated to a sneak preview of an upcoming local performance which features a fair amount of Muskegon Rotary "royalty!"

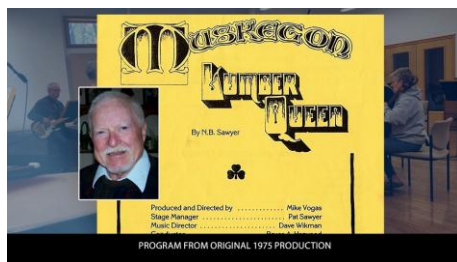


Program presenter and *Lumber Queen* director **Mike Vogas** sets the stage for our guest actors.



*Lumber Queen, The Musical*, is marking its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by being performed at the new event center, The Corner, Oct. 3, 4 and 5. As it was 50 years ago, it is produced and directed by our own weekly showman, **Mike Vogas**, who was a teacher at Muskegon High School when it was first performed in 1975.

Mike came to Muskegon in 1967 after graduating from Hope College and attending the Yale Drama School. The original play was written by N.B. “Whitey” Sawyer, the longtime *Muskegon Chronicle* sportswriter and editor.



At this week’s meeting, Mike directed a sneak peak of the upcoming performances, which included former students who were on stage in 1975 and new actors, among them Rotarians **D.J. Hilson** and **Gary Nelund**. While they weren’t “on stage” for this sneak preview, *RIM* learned that **Randy Lindquist** and **Kendra Robinson** have also joined the cast, so more Rotarians will be strutting their stuff in a few weeks! In an exclusive interview with *RIM*,

Mike shared a portion of the content of what will be a beautifully designed playbill for the performance:

### ***Bringing Back a Community Treasure***

*Half a century ago, Muskegon: Lumber Queen was written to celebrate the history and spirit of the community that grew from the lumber era of the 1880s. Its blend of melodrama, music, and humor captured the hearts of local audiences, making it a cherished part of Muskegon’s cultural identity. As the 50th anniversary approached, a dedicated group of community leaders, artists, and theater enthusiasts recognized the importance of reviving this work for a new generation. Through months of research, adaptation, and rehearsal, they carefully updated the script and score while preserving the original intent—ensuring that*

*both the legacy of the play’s creators and the authenticity of Muskegon’s history shine through once again.*

### ***Economic and Social Value***

*This new production is more than entertainment; it is a celebration of the community’s resilience and collective pride. By staging Muskegon: Lumber Queen once again, local performers, musicians, and craftspeople are directly involved in honoring their roots while stimulating cultural and economic activity. The show provides opportunities for local talent, strengthens partnerships between civic organizations, and brings audiences together in a shared appreciation of the city’s past. Just as the lumber industry once fueled Muskegon’s growth, this play demonstrates how art and history can unite a community, inspire civic pride, and contribute to local vitality.*

### ***Heritage for Future Generations***

*Perhaps most importantly, the 50th anniversary production offers younger generations a vivid reminder of the grit, ingenuity, and perseverance that built Muskegon. Through its characters and storytelling, the play encourages audiences to reflect on the sacrifices and determination of those who came before, while inspiring respect for the community’s enduring heritage. By reliving this story on stage, we not only honor the past but also pass forward a legacy of resilience, creativity, and civic spirit. Muskegon: Lumber Queen thus continues to be both a mirror of history and a gift to the future.*

In addition to thanking the Club for its support as a community leader and individual Rotarians for being on stage, Mike gave special recognition to five Rotarians for their key involvement to help make this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary performance a reality. In Mike's words:



**Steve Olsen** decided the project was worth asking donors to back it.  
**Bob Scolnik** asked his friends to add dollars to those he provided.  
**Jason Piasecki** applied his marketing sense to the initial public outreach.  
**Melissa Horton** jumped in early and helped to move copyright ownership to the Lakeshore Museum Center so that the show now belongs to the Muskegon community and is available to produce without cost. This includes all the musical arrangements. The Museum not only handles ticketing but processes all the fiduciary tasks.  
**Tim Lipan** joined the team and is directing all social media and marketing considerations, without which, this almost octogenarian stage director would be up the Muskegon River without a paddle.



**Gary Nelund**, Rotarian and actor in *The Lumber Queen*.



Gale Margaret performs a dance for members—the same audition piece that earned her a role in *The Lumber Queen*!



Gale Margaret performs a dance for members—the same audition piece that earned her a role in *The Lumber Queen*!



Andy Achterhoff performs as Gilmer the Log Pirate.



D.J. Hilson appears as "Logger #1."



Kyle Hardie plays Fred Hanson.



The cast of *The Lumber Queen* serenades the crowd.



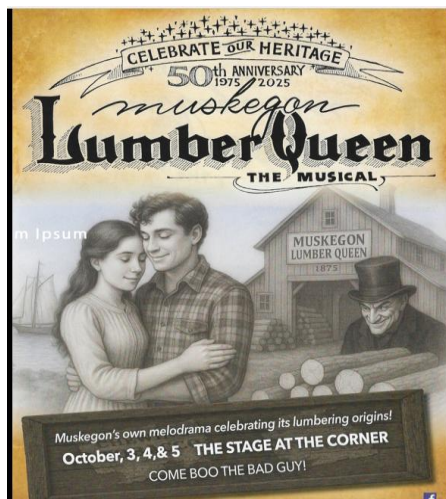
The cast of *The Lumber Queen* answers audience questions.



Dana Olsen plays the greedy Harry Dawson.



"Join us at The Stage at The Corner, October 3–5, 2025, to see *The Lumber Queen*."



**President Dave** said it would be great to have a strong showing of Rotarians at all three performances, being held at The Stage at the Corner, 280 Muskegon Ave. downtown. Show times are Oct. 3 and 4, 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. Tickets are just \$10 and available online only by using the QR Code provided elsewhere in *RIM*. Not sure how to use a QR Code? (You're not alone!) Stop into the Lakeshore Museum Center's main office, 430 W. Clay Ave., and they'll help you out!

CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE  
50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1975-2025

# Muskegon Lumber Queen

THE MUSICAL

*Lumber Queen, The Musical* is a spirited and heartfelt melodrama that celebrates Muskegon's origins during the height of the lumber boom in the 1880s. Rooted in historical detail and community pride, the play tells a multigenerational story of ambition, love, and resilience. Through lively characters like Fred Hansen, Annie Sorensen, and the villainous Harry Dawson, this locally produced production with all local actors brings to life a pivotal era when sawmills roared, communities thrived, and integrity was tested. You will be reminded of the deep cultural roots that shaped Muskegon's identity—offering a theatrical tribute to the city's industrious past and the people who built it, AND you get to boo and hiss at the bad guy!!

**October 3 & 4 at 7:30pm**  
**October 5 at 3:00pm**

**Tickets \$10**  
General Admission  
Online ticket sales only  
Ticket sales sponsored by  
LAKESHORE MUSEUM CENTER

Presented at  
**The Stage at the Corner**  
280 Muskegon Avenue  
Downtown Muskegon  
**THE STAGE**  
AT THE CORNER

For more information, call (231) 780-5300  
or check out *Muskegon The Lumber Queen* on Facebook

## RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar & Ginny Sprague

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

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E36: Stephanie Briggs – Muskegon Community College



In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, Dr. Stephanie Briggs, Associate Dean of Workforce and Talent Development at Muskegon Community College, shares how MCC connects students of all ages to high-demand careers.

From the Muskegon Promise and Michigan Reconnect to small class sizes and hands-on faculty, MCC is creating affordable, life-changing opportunities right here at home.

Listen now  
at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17818145>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

## Rotary ReWine September & October Schedule

5:00-5:15pm Social time

5:15pm Meeting start time

At Core Plaza (Vault)

September 18<sup>th</sup>

October 2<sup>nd</sup>

October 16<sup>th</sup> CANCELLED

Contact Kaytie Drake  
at [kaytieely@aol.com](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) for more  
information

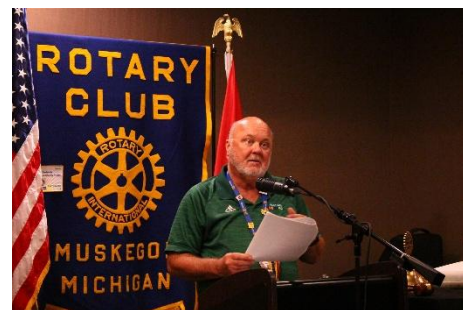
## Rotary In Action Roger Morgenstern



Our Rotarians in Action segment this week features **President Elect Roger Morgenstern**. Roger has been a Rotarian since 2001 when he was sponsored by his Rotary and Consumers Energy mentor **Bill Johanson**. Bill, with very little assistance from Roger, worked to create the *RIM* and transforming it from a mailed newsletter to the colorful, fun, vibrant online publication it continues to be more than 20 years later under the leadership of co-editors **Jackie Farrar** and **Susan Besteman**! While Roger still writes and takes photos for the *RIM*, much of his Rotary work now is focused on assisting his close, longtime friend **President Dave** and the Board to keep our Club active and involved in our community. Roger will become President next July 1.

Watch the entire video [here](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



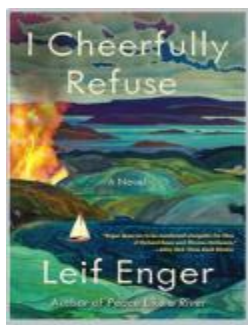
**President Dave Alexander** shares a bevy of announcements:

- \* Ed Hendrickson remains hospitalized at Trinity but is able to receive visitors.
- \* The next “ReWine” meeting is Thursday, Sept. 18 at 5:15 p.m. at Core Plaza’s “The Vault.”
- \* The Board of Directors is seeking a new Muskegon Rotary Club President Nominee—could it be you?
- \* **President Dave** said he has formed a Nominating Committee to make a recommendation to the board for the Rotary Club President (or Co-Presidents) that would begin serving July 1, 2028, after **Lisa Tyler’s** presidency. The committee members are **President Elect Roger Morgenstern, President Nominee Lisa Tyler, Immediate Past President Tim Arter** and Rotarians **Annette Jack, Nancy McCarthy** and **Parker Aerts**. The Committee will also be making a recommendation to fill one Board seat for a three-year term. The Board will consider the committee’s recommendations at its November meeting and the full club will vote at our Annual Meeting at our last Thursday luncheon in December. Let Roger, Dave or Lisa know if there are any individuals who should be considered!

\* The Muskegon Rotary Foundation Board has approved support for the Muskegon Young Black Professionals' *Shades of Excellence* event on Nov. 8.



**Andrea Riegler**, from the Environmental Sustainability Committee, promotes the "Big Read."



**Andrea Reigler** said the Club's Environmental Committee is helping support our community's 2025 Big Read by encouraging Rotarians to read this year's book, *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger. See **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** if you'd like to borrow a book to read. There is a full list of activities related to the Big Read. Visit [www.madl.org](http://www.madl.org) for more information.



**Marcia Hovey-Wright** shares that "Love Still Lives Here" signs are available with an encouraged \$5 donation.



**Gary Nelund** promotes the upcoming play *The Lumber Queen* and notes that many Rotary members are part of the cast.

## DEI Corner

### September is Hispanic Heritage Month











For more information [Click here](#)



**D.J. Hilson** introduces **Camille Jourdan-Mark**, the new CEO of the Boys and Girls Club.





**Arn Boezaart** said the Board has approved our Club participating in two food trucks with Feeding West Michigan. The dates will be Oct. 22 and April 22 in Muskegon Heights more details will be forthcoming!



**Kim Taylor** and **Hannah Hunter**

Hannah Hunter receives recognition for her performance in *The Penguin Project* and *Frozen Jr.*—earning a standing ovation from the Muskegon Rotary Club.



## Dom Bunker Shares a Special Update

Video from Skylar, our outbound from Ravenna Schools, who is currently studying abroad in Brazil! Each quarter, she'll be sending me an update like this, which I'll pass along so you can see the incredible impact our program is having on students. Maybe it is something we can share with the entire Rotary Club as well?

### View Video

At: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1crT4325bOBAGfhxG7CDvqkZpUI9uF8a3/view?usp=sharing>

A huge thank you to all of you for the support you provide—whether it's interviewing students, hosting families, mentoring, or simply cheering them on—you make these opportunities possible.

Also, applications for next year's exchange are still open until **September 12**. Please continue to help spread the word by sharing this link: <https://bit.ly/MuskegonYouthExchangeInterest>.

Thanks again for being champions of youth exchange and helping dreams take flight!



**Roger Morgenstern** promotes Harvest Fest—reminding everyone to **buy tickets!**

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

A crisp cool temp has moved into our area this week and that's got us thinking about [Harvest Fest 2025!](#)

Want to attend? Want to get involved? Want to sponsor? It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1.) Get your tickets today! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.
- 2.) Click [HERE](#) to sign up to volunteer!
- 3.) Sponsor our biggest fundraiser of the year! Learn more [HERE](#)!

Thank you!  
Harvest Fest Committee

## Adopt-A-Highway Program Looking for Volunteers

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, September 27.

Volunteers will meet promptly at 8:45am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 11:00am, sooner if we get a lot of help 😊).

I am also looking for two drivers to drive along with the volunteers who are picking trash. If you can help, please contact Esther Ricco, [riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu) or 616-283-1810 and she can provide you with details.

Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!



**Doug Wood** highlights the importance of the Peace Builder Committee and shares details about the next *Braver Angels* event on October 10th.

Doug Wood from the PeaceBuilders Committee shared that historical information on Rotary International's longtime role in promoting a more peaceful world was on tables. He said with new incidents of violence as recently as this week "our world needs Rotary more than ever" to promote peace.

Doug also shared that the PeaceBuilders Committee is working with Braver Angels for another event. Mark your calendars for Oct. 10 for the upcoming Braver Angel Workshop, "Family & Politics" 1-4 p.m., in the Wheelfish (Pyramid on the Lake) offices, 700 Terrace Point Dr., Suite 200, downtown Muskegon.

This workshop is open to Rotarians and family members. It will teach participants how to preserve family bonds while staying true to their values and political beliefs. Although the focus is on family relationships, you can use these strategies with any loved one. You'll have some fun in this workshop, while learning about the family dynamics of political differences, applying them to your family, and practicing effective communication skills with difficult family members... and just in time for the holidays!

Contact Cathy Brubaker-Clarke if you would like additional information and be on the lookout for a Sign-Up Genius from Kim Boersema!



**Susan Crain** donates a shirt purchased by **Orville Crain** at the Rotary International Convention for Harvest Fest this year and has **President Dave** model it for members!



**President Dave Alexander** shows off Rotary-emblemed Gretzky hockey jersey!

