

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 4, 2025

Next Meeting (September 11, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Chicken Parmesan at the Lake House
Program Topic – Lumber Queen Play

What's Coming

September 11 – Lumber Queen Play

September 18 – PFAS in Muskegon County

September 25 – Muskegon River Assembly

Upcoming Birthdays

September 13 Belinda Barbier

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeters This Week

Joseph Zappacosta

Ryan Sterkenburg

Reflector This Week

Bill Loxterman

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Mark Alpher

RIM Reporter – Ginny Sprague

RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

9/4/2025 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Reflection



Bill Loxterman provides the reflection

Visitors & Guests



Kendrah Robinson and guest Audrey Bennett



Kat Hyder and guest Doctor Paul Lameo

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

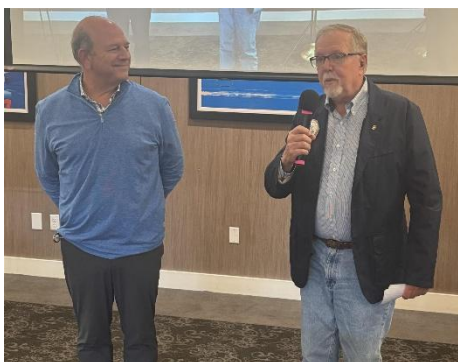
Dimitri Poland

Arlen-Dean Gaddy

Lisa Kraus

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

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



Bill Loxterman and guest Ben Scheerer



Marty Sytsema and West Michigan Christian Students



Melissa Moore and guest Adam Hampton



Ivan Ivanov and sponsor **Bill Loxterman**



Myra Dutton and guest Jeanie Colella

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

Inductions

Ivan Ivanov is a Senior Electrical Engineer at Barr Engineering Co., an engineering and environmental consulting firm with Michigan offices in Grand Rapids and Ann Arbor. Ivan is enthusiastic about providing quality engineering and consulting services when designing and managing projects. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Michigan.

Ivan has lived and worked in West Michigan for the past 34 years. As an exchange student from Croatia in the former Yugoslavia, he graduated from Mona Shores High School. Coming from Zadar, a city on the shores of the Adriatic Sea, it seems fitting that he ended up in Muskegon with its own beautiful sunsets, majestic beaches, and sandy dunes. Lake Michigan being unsalted did not bother him at all.

Ivan attended Muskegon Community College (MCC) where he participated in the student government, and worked as a peer recruiter, a lab assistant, and an academic tutor. He graduated from MCC with both associate degrees and then transferred to Grand Valley State University (GVSU) to pursue engineering.

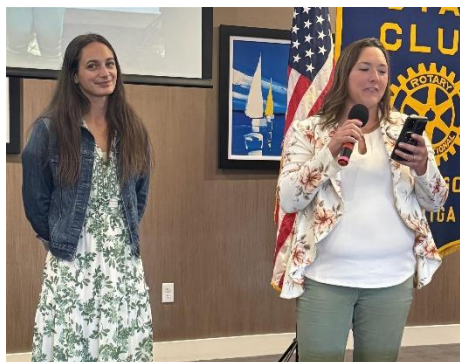
Ivan graduated from GVSU in 1998 with a bachelor's in engineering. While at GVSU, Ivan worked in the tutoring center and was a computer lab assistant. The tutoring center job was a welcome break from engineering classes, but the best part about it is that is where he and Mary, his spouse of 25 years, first met. Later, while working full-time as a practicing engineer, Ivan returned to GVSU and obtained his Master of Business Administration degree in 2004.

Ivan's wife Mary is a full-time ordained clergy and a pastor for the United Methodist Church, currently serving at Lake Harbor UMC in Norton Shores. Since Mary's graduation from the Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Ivan, Mary, and their family lived in Ravenna and Cedar Springs, before moving to Norton Shores in 2014.

Ivan and Mary have two wonderful children who are now young adults, currently pursuing their college education. Ana is in her fourth year at Michigan State University majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Luka recently started his first year at University of Michigan and is planning to major in Astrophysics.

Ivan volunteered in activities at Mona Shores schools where his children attended and was a member of the Scouting America Troop 1053 with his son. Ivan is an active participant and a board member for the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) on the state and chapter levels and is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Ivan and Mary are adjusting to being “empty nesters, while enjoying living, working, and playing in our beautiful Muskegon County. At Rotary, Ivan is looking forward to networking, forging new relationships, and taking part in this club’s activities and initiatives.



Karen Kekelik and sponsor **Kat Hyder**

Karen Kekelik is a dedicated attorney, entrepreneur, and community advocate whose work blends business expertise with a passion for service. A graduate of Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature, Karen was a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. She went on to earn her Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University School of Law, where she was a recipient of the Heritage Law Scholarship.

In 2021, Karen co-founded IndiGrow, a craft cannabis microbusiness in downtown Muskegon, with the mission of producing clean, sustainable, and locally grown cannabis while fostering transparency and consumer education. Under her leadership, IndiGrow became recognized as the nation’s most energy-efficient small-scale cannabis facility. She also co-founded CannaFam Consulting, helping small businesses navigate the challenges of the cannabis industry.

Karen’s community involvement extends far beyond her businesses. She has been an active member of JCI Greater Muskegon, regularly volunteers with local initiatives, and will be honored this October by JCI Michigan with the Outstanding Young Michigander Award. She is also a proud member of Run Muskegon, a Girls on the Run coach, and an advocate for policies that protect consumers, promote sustainability, and strengthen small businesses.

When she’s not working or volunteering, Karen enjoys running, spending time on the water, and making memories with her husband Steven and their two daughters. She is honored to join the Muskegon Rotary, continuing her commitment to service above self.



President Dave Alexander and our newest members **Ivan Ivanov** and **Karen Kekelik**

This Week’s Program: Public Defender Office Presenters:

**Amy Campanelli and
Melinda Kotecki**

Introduction:
Melissa Horton



Melissa Horton introduces our program



Amy Campanelli, Chief Public Defender

Following a cinematic opening featuring a pivotal scene from the 1982 film, *The Verdict*, starring Paul Newman and James Mason, available on your favorite streaming platform, Ms. Campanelli, Director of the Muskegon County Public Defenders Office, began her remarks with a brief history of Public Defense in the United States. Noting that before 1791, only those who could afford attorneys had access to legal representation; however, with the passage of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, the sixth amendment provided the right to counsel in federal criminal cases, a right to an impartial jury trial, a public trial, and the ability to confront any witnesses. It was not until 1878, that an amendment to the California state constitution admitted women to the legal profession, and the state's first female attorney, Clara Shortridge Foltz, championed the concept of public defense to provide equal representation to the poor. She was the first female district attorney for Los Angeles and championed criminal justice including prison reform, and the right of representation for the indigent.

CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ

Late 1800s

- California's 1st female attorney
- Championed the concept of public defense to provide equal representation to the poor
- Fought for amendment to CA constitution to admit women, passed in 1878

1911

- 1st female deputy district attorney in Los Angeles
- Fought for criminal justice and prison reforms, including appointment of public defenders for the indigent

Recalling pivotal Supreme Court cases that are synonymous with criminal justice reform, Ms. Campanelli briefly recounted *Powell v. Alabama* (1932) defendants the Scottsboro Boys, 1963 *Gideon v. Wainwright* which established the right to counsel, 1966 *Miranda v. Arizona*, establishing every

suspect in custody must be informed of their rights during questioning and their right to an attorney during questioning, and if they cannot afford one, that an attorney be provided for them. In 1967, *Re Gault*, the right to counsel was extended to juvenile cases, and in 1972 in *Argersinger v. Hamlin* broadened counsel rights to include misdemeanors.

Answering her question, "Why are Public Defenders important?" Amy mentioned the significance of the Bill of Rights, the checks and balances within the legal system, and the aim of promoting fairness. The Muskegon County Public Defense office demonstrates this importance with their Mission, Core Values, and Vision statements of the Muskegon Public Defense.

MISSION: To protect the rights, liberty, and dignity of each person entrusted to our care by providing the finest client-centered holistic representation.

CORE VALUES:

Client-Centered	Culture of Excellence
Tenacious Advocacy	Outstanding Work Product
United in our Mission	Excel at Teamwork

VISION: To improve the lives of our clients and the communities we serve through high quality legal defense and client-centered advocacy that extends beyond the courtroom and creates pathways for clients to rebuild their lives.

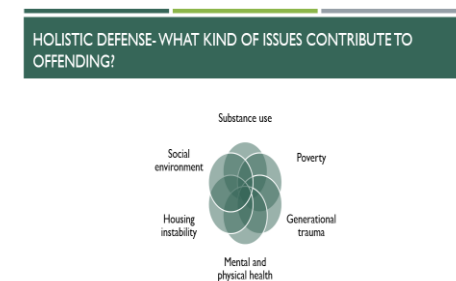
Beginning in 2014, the Muskegon County Public Defender began practicing a holistic defense model approach to criminal justice. At the time, it was one of twenty-one offices in the country using this approach.

Ms. Campanelli introduced Melinda Kotecki, Chief Social Worker, Muskegon County Public Defender Office, to inform our members about what is a holistic approach to criminal justice?

Using a Venn Diagram to illustrate the kind of issues that contribute to crime, Ms. Kotecki stated that by addressing the factors that may have contributed to an offense, the Public Defender's office can work to reduce or eliminate those obstacles so that the client can successfully re-enter society with a lesser chance of recidivism and have the resources to support them and their loved ones.



Melinda Kotecki, Chief Social Worker



Ms. Kotecki went on to briefly discuss the impacts of substance abuse and addiction, generational trauma identified by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), and mental illness and the importance of addressing mental and physical health. She closed her remarks by highlighting the benefits of a holistic approach by citing data compiled by the public defender's office in the Bronx, New York which showed a 16% reduction in custodial sentences and expected sentence length by 24%, without increasing future crime. Throughout the study period, the decrease in incarceration days could yield considerable cost savings for taxpayers, provided all city boroughs adopted a holistic strategy.

Ms. Campanelli returned to the lectern with slides showcasing client testimonials, opportunities for community involvement, the Public Defender Monthly Newsletter, and closed out with a short video showcasing staff testimonials from David Williams, Chief of Probate, Kyle Jansen, Assistant Public Defender, Shawn Perry, Assistant Public Defender, Felony Division and Recovery Court Team, and Muskegon Rotarian, Kendrah Robinson, Assistant Public Defender, who for her ten years with the Public Defender office has "...been speaking for the voiceless."

Amy closed her presentation by encouraging our members to visit the Muskegon County Public Defender website.

<https://co.muskegon.mi.us/350/Public-Defender>.



Our speakers entertained questions from our members regarding the impact of funding issues on their program and office and the importance of literacy issues for our community members and especially for the incarcerated population.



Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E35: Brian Stork - SafERteens



What happens when a doctor steps out of the operating room and into the fight against youth violence?

This week, host Nancy Crandall sits down with Dr. Brian Stork, a Muskegon urologist and University of Michigan professor, to talk about the SafERteens program and the growing network of schools, health providers, law enforcement, and community groups working together to keep our youth safe.

Backed by a \$6 million grant and powered by a youth advisory board, this effort is saving lives, creating opportunities, and building hope right here in Muskegon.

Listen now and hear how local partnerships are changing the future for our young people:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17790662-brian-stork-saferteens>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Rotary In Action John Noling



Muskegon Rotary proudly sent a record-breaking 33 students to the 2025 Life Leadership Conference, thanks to a collaborative effort involving President Tim Harter, Interact clubs, local high schools, and generous Rotarians.

John Noling highlights how increased funding and volunteer support made this expanded outreach possible, showcasing Rotary's ongoing commitment to youth leadership development. With roots going back to 1949, Muskegon remains the birthplace and a driving force behind this impactful initiative

Watch the entire video [here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



President Dave Alexander shared that we are looking for a new Muskegon Rotary Club President Nominee to serve in the presidential succession after Lisa Tyler. **Dave** also recognized **Mark Eisenbarth's** service these past years as World Community Service Council chair and looking for a replacement to co-chair with **Don Crandall**.

Thanks Labor Day Flag Corps!



35 flags from Southern Ave to Hackley
30 lbs. of trash along the way
Celebrating Labor Day in America!



"To find joy in work is to discover the fountain of youth." Pearl Buck

Thanks, MHS Interact Club!

Tobias Melton

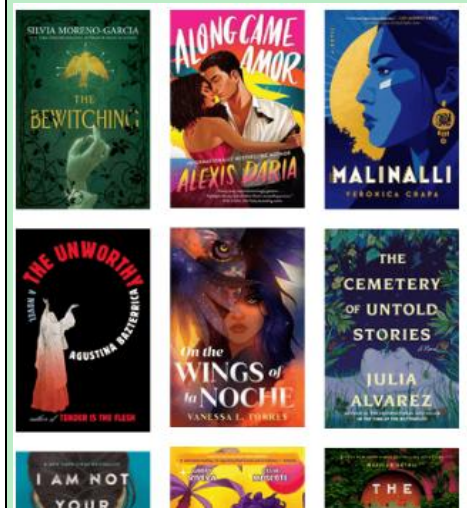
Aaliyah Jordan

Dekyra Diggs

And **Dave Alexander, Cindy Maynard**
Evan Ewing, Sue and **John Noling**

DEI Corner

September is Hispanic Heritage Month



For more information [Click here](#)

Rotary ReWine September & October Schedule

5:00-5:15pm Social time

5:15pm Meeting start time

At Core Plaza (Vault)

September 18th

October 2nd

October 16th CANCELLED

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



Ammy Seymour provided updates regarding the Youth Exchange Program.

Scan the QR Code below and Contact **Dom Bunker** or **Ammy Seymour** if you have any questions



Kat Hyder promotes Harvest Fest

Rotary

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

TICKETS
\$85
Scan for tickets

Harvest Fest

- ▶ 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



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 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!

Microforest A Day of Learning and Working





Global Grants Mobile Cancer Detection Van Project



OV Interact Club
A great team of volunteers!

