

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, July 30, 2026

August 6, 2026, Sweet & Sour Chicken at the Lake House
Program – Outbound Students

What's Coming

August 6 – Outbound Students

Upcoming Birthdays

August 6	Amy Campanelli
August 6	Bradley Demirjian
August 8	Ronald Koehler
August 8	Nancy McCarthy
August 9	Bernard Brown
August 9	Frank Peterson
August 10	Diana Osborn
August 11	Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga



Caring

Connections Fund

[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Andrew Zahrt

Greeters This Week

Mary Anne Gorman
Dimitri Poland

Reflector This Week

Darlene Collet

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Emily Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



President Roger Morgenstern starts the meeting.

Reflection



Darlene Collet Provides our reflection.

Visitors and Guests



McKenzie Taylor guest of Kim Taylor.

Muskegon Rotary Board

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	
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator	
Directors:	
Esther Ricco	Lisa Kraus
Melissa Moore	Samantha Scott
Dimitri Poland	Kelly DeVos
Martha Fohlbrook	John Selmon

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

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

This Week's Program:

RI Director Marty Helman

Presenter: **RI Director
Marty Helman**

Introduced by: **Julie
Schumaker**

RIM Reporter:
Sue Samaniego



Martha "Marty" Helman represents Zones 28/30 on the Rotary International Board of Directors. She recently completed a term as a Rotary Foundation Trustee, serving as chair of the Fund Development Committee, the Area of Focus Major Gifts Initiative, and the Large-Scale Programmatic Partners workgroup.

Marty has served as a trainer and presenter both internationally and closer to home. She was integral to the formation of the Rotary Foundation's Peace-Major Gift Initiative and site selection committee for the Peace Center in Istanbul and a new center scheduled to open in 2027 in Pune, India.

Marty is an Arch Klumph Society member, a member of the Paul Harris and Polio Plus societies and she and her late husband Frank were charter members of the Legacy Society of the Rotary Foundation.

Marty is currently completing an Impact Tour throughout Zone 28/32. We are one of 40 districts she will be visiting. Her stop in Muskegon brought in a large crowd of Muskegon Rotary members as well as several guests from our District Rotary clubs.

In response to hearing portions of her impressive bio shared by Julie, Marty stated that she gets more out of Rotary than she can ever possibly give. She then began with the well-known saying that is often referred to as an ironic curse: *May you live in interesting times*. Adding that the world has never needed Rotary as much as it does today. Rotarians create sustainable change; primarily due to the Rotary Foundation. While the Rotary Foundation tends and raises gifts, Rotarians determine where the funds are spent.

The Rotary Foundation has top ratings for how much of its funds go to charity and for transparency. This is especially impressive given the number of languages, currencies, etc. it works with.

Rotarians get things done. People join Rotary to get things done. Marty encourages bringing prospective members to an event, service project workday, or fundraiser instead of or in addition to bringing them to meetings. They need to see Rotarians "doing" Rotary, not just "talking" Rotary.

Every committed Rotarian says, "This club is the best in the world." No club can attract everyone. There are always issues with timing, cost, location, weekly commitment, etc. E-clubs can only do so much.



Julie Schumaker (Frankfort), Governor of Rotary District 6290, introduced our speaker:

No club can be “the club” in a community; offshoot clubs (like our ReWine) are great.

“The world is changing. Rotary is changing, too; but the world is changing faster.” Growth of Rotary is necessary to continue to stay where we are (in terms of number and impact.) Clubs typically have 15% turnover each year. Half of the people who join leave within the first two years. This has been the same trend for 25 years. They haven’t changed their goals or passion that brought them to Rotary, they just stopped paying dues and attending meetings. Time and dues are the primary reasons. The more clubs in a community, the stronger the community and the clubs within it. If a member remains through their third year, they tend to stay for life. This is due to the emotional return on what Rotary does and the people we meet in Rotary. It’s because they are doing something larger than themselves.



“I believe in Rotary,” Marty asserted. “Together we can create a world where people unite to change things and make a lasting impact.”

Marty related a story about a service trip to Guatemala. During part of the trip, it was decided to take a group of the children living in the village to the zoo to see the animals. On the way there, it was apparent that there was more to this trip than they expected. Many of the children had never been outside of their town, ridden on a bus, or so many other “typical” experiences. There was so much newness experienced that the animals were barely noticed. She had never thought about people in their shanty towns in this way before. The lesson learned was that the most important work a Rotary club does is in their home community. The most important service we can do is to an adult we know who feels empty inside.

Marty encouraged us to discover our own Rotary passion – the thing that makes you say, “This is something I *need* to do.” Rotary will give you the resources and associates to make it happen. One Rotarian started all the initiatives known within Rotary today, including Polio Plus.

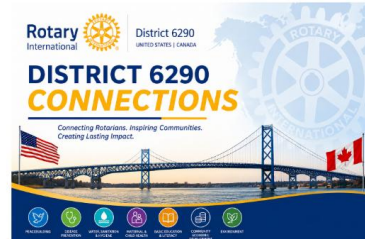
Marty ended with this reminder. “The world needs Rotary. Never forget why you are a Rotarian: Service before self. Unite for change. You are far more than a member. You are a life changer.”

Recorder’s note: If you missed this meeting, please watch the video recording. This was so inspirational. You need to hear it!



District Newsletter

JULY/AUGUST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Stories

Relaunch of District 6290's Connections Newsletter!

Welcome to District 6290 Connections!

Discover what's happening across our district! This interactive newsletter is packed with inspiring stories from local Rotary clubs, updates on district events, leadership resources, and practical tools to help your club thrive.

Be sure to explore the active links throughout the newsletter—they'll take you directly to registration pages, helpful resources, forms, websites, and additional information with just one click.

Published six times each year, *District 6290 Connections* keeps you informed, connected, and inspired. Our next issue will be published in September.

We'd love to feature your club! Share your stories, photos, upcoming service projects, fundraisers, and special events with the district.

Please send your submissions to CAO Kathy Hegedus at kathyh@ridistrict6290.org.

[Click here to view the Newsletter](#)

Paul Harris Fellow Awards



* Tom Schmidt

* Jim White

* Gernot Runschke

Announcements



Kathy Evans and Pete DeBoer provide information on Celebrate Muskegon Lakes Comeback.

Pete also encouraged members to attend the next County Board meeting on August 6th at 4:00pm to hear/learn more about the possible Parks Millage in November.



Celebrate Muskegon Lake's Remarkable Comeback.

One Day. Two Great Events.

AUGUST 15, 2026

Sun, Fun, and a Lake Restored

9 AM – 2 PM

Celebrate Muskegon Lake's comeback with family fun, food, activities, and waterfront adventures.

📍 Grand Trunk Pavilion

Back to the Lake: An 80s Celebration

7 PM – 10 PM

Celebrate the decade when restoration began, with an 80s-themed night of music, dancing, food and fun!

📍 S.S. Milwaukee Clipper



📱 [BIT.LY/MUSKEGONLAKECELEBRATION](https://bit.ly/MuskegonLakeCelebration)

Click the link below for additional information

<https://bit.ly/MuskegonLakeCelebration>

ReWine Meeting Schedule

5:00pm social time - meeting starts at 5:15pm

Thursday August 6 at Bistro at the Shoreline Inn, 750 Terrace Point Blvd.

Thursday August 20 at Motu Wine Bar 1208 8th St.

RSVP by Wednesday at 5pm prior to each meeting by contacting Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com

(Total # attending including guests)

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 26.

Volunteers will meet promptly at 7:30am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 10am, 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, estherricco@hotmail.com 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!

RIM Newsletter Volunteers Needed PLEASE

- * Reporting – Overview of meeting
- * Taking Pictures and writing captions
- * Rotation is once every 4 to 6 weeks
- * Bonus is - you get to work alongside a GREAT group of Rotarians

This week's Birthday Slide



Rotary in Action Leaders Inspiring Leaders



Discover why four high school students say the Rotary District 6290 Life Leadership Conference is an experience that changes the way they see themselves and others.

In this candid conversation, they share how the conference helped them build confidence, find their voice, make lifelong friendships, and develop the skills to lead with purpose and compassion. More than just a leadership camp, Life Leadership creates a welcoming community where students are encouraged to grow, support one another, and leave inspired to make a positive difference in their schools and communities.

If you're looking for an opportunity to challenge yourself, connect with motivated peers, and become the leader you're meant to be, this interview offers a firsthand look at why so many students describe Life Leadership as life-changing

Watch the full video [here](#)

Rotary Fundraiser



Muskegon Rising



Dom Bunker is requesting a dresser and twin bed for an Exchange Student.

Dakidd Bar-B-Que & Catering is fundraising for the Rotary Club Of Muskegon



Rotary Club Of Muskegon

A portion of all proceeds will be donated to the Rotary Club Of Muskegon

Location
Pincrest Bar & Lanes
6571 Airline Rd, Fruitport, MI 49415

Time 5:30pm-8:30pm **Date** August 13, 2026



Lisa Kraus is looking for Harvest Fest Volunteers.

Testimony from Jennifer Zhang from the 2026 Life Leadership Conference



I'll use the leadership activities and lessons to recognize everyone's unique leadership styles so I can understand them, and recognize how to be a leader and not a boss. I also plan to use the things I learned from Howard's poems about how important it is to make everyone at school feel seen and included. The only thing I didn't really like about the conference was the dorms, but other than that, this conference was one of the best experiences of my life.

Thank you Jennifer

Rotary Socializing



Susan Crain is looking to see if members are interested in attending the International Convention in June 2027.

My impression of the speakers, content, and staff was very good, I loved their upbeat and unique personalities, and it made the speeches very engaging. The content was really inspiring. It helped give me the confidence to continue a sport I wanted to quit and to learn how to be a leader for our community. The staff were kind and funny, I loved talking with and learning from them. The message and speaker that impacted me the most was Howard and his poems. They helped me realize the purpose of me being at this conference and what I needed to do to bring change back to the community. I loved hearing from him. I plan to make a difference by using the things Molly taught to inspire me to challenge and believe in myself.





Visiting Rotarians

Tom & Denise Schmidt - Fremont
 Jim White - GR
 John & Colleen Buckley - Fremont
 Julie Schumaker - Frankfort
 Terri Jeurink - Allendale
 Paula Jastifer - GR
 Diane Van Epps - Comstock Park
 Wendall & Nathan Christoff - Lowell
 Dan Heimler - SL
 Jeff Coil - Fremont
 Troy Hauser-Brydon - GH
 Gernot Runschke - GH
 Grace Huizinga - Lowell
 Ruthann Schulte - GR
 Michael Canfield - GH

