

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, April 23, 2026


April 30, 2026, Lasagna at the Delta Program – Muskegon Area Arts and Culture Coalition

What's Coming

May 7—Student Law Day Contest
Winners
May 14 Announcement coming
May 21 Central America, Honduras
Muskegon Connections

Upcoming Birthdays

April 30 **Doug Wood**
May 1 **Jill Ryan**
May 4 **Marc VanderStelt**
May 6 **Carim Calkins**



**Caring
Connections Fund**
[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Tiffany Dupont-Novak

Greeters This Week

Lisa Tyler and Marianne Verhil

Reflector This Week

Brad Hastings

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Susan Besteman
RIM Editor – Ginny Sprague

Reflection



Brad Hastings, inspired by *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari, offered his reflection on the human condition and the importance of finding food, a driving force behind human activity throughout history and the state of our society today. To hear the Reflection and the rest of the meeting, watch the Muskegon Rotary YouTube video:

Muskegon Rotary
4/23/26
<https://www.youtube>

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
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Directors:
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Melissa Moore
Arlen-Dean Gaddy
Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga
Brandon Turnbull
Samantha Scott
Dimitri Poland
Lisa Kraus

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

Presidential Reminder



President Dave reminded members to please limit their guest introductions to name, employment or community role, and membership interest.

Visitors and Guests



Tiffany Dupont-Novak introduced her guest, Dr. Caitlin Cowan, Executive Director of Muskegon Civic Theatre.



Greg Borgman introduces his guest, Derick Smith, owner of Woodsmith Finish Carpentry.

Visitors and Guests cont.



Jessie Wilde introduces her guest, Donna Brumm, Harbor Light Credit Union.



Andrea Riegler welcomes her guest, Kathy Evans, Board member Muskegon Watershed Partnership.



Jim Fisher welcomes his guest, Dawn Serafini, retired financial advisor, and interested in membership.



Cece Riley, celebrating Bring Your Child to Work (and Rotary) Day, welcomes her daughter, Emma Riley, a 6th grade student, and Early Act member at Mona Shores Middle School.



Pete De Boer welcomes his guests, Sarah Cooper, County of Muskegon, and Rory Thibault, Land Conservancy of West Michigan.



Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga and her guest and colleague, Diana Wenger, MADL Youth Services and Seed Librarian.

Student Guests



Marty Sytsema introduces our guests from Oakridge High School. Pictured from the left, are seniors, Addison Schmitz and Connor Bruesch, and Principal Jason McVoy.

Muskegon Minute

President Dave recounted, “Along with weather stories, I have written my share of Great Lakes water level stories over the years. Water levels go up and come down is the rule all of the years I’ve lived and boated along the Lakeshore.”

This year’s record-breaking spring and April rainfall in northern and central Michigan has led to significant flooding, dam failures, and will lead to the rise in Lake Michigan and Huron, which are one hydrological body of water.

Lake Michigan water levels, which are reflected on Muskegon Lake, have ebbed and flowed for generations. The historic low-water year was 2013, and the record high-water year was 1986, when West Michigan houses were tumbling into the Big Lake.

Overall, lake levels should be below long-term averages by six inches to a foot this boating season, but this year’s rain has increased water levels by four inches higher than this time last year. One inch of rise in Lakes Michigan and Huron is equivalent to 80 billion gallons of water. As **Don and Nancy Crandall** can attest, Lake Michigan water levels – either high or low – have huge economic consequences.

Although rainfall, snowpack, and lake ice affect lake level trends, scientists say that the biggest impact on lake levels is a hot sunny day when simple evaporation is the biggest factor.

This Week's Program

Local Governments for Sustainability and Muskegon County's Community Composting Grant



Presenter—Angela Fox
Introduction—Andrea Riegler
RIM Reporter—Susan Besteman



Andrea Riegler, Co-Chair of the Environment Committee, was pleased to introduce our program speaker. Angela Fox, pictured below.



Our speaker, Angela Fox, works for a sustainability company called ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) and is

the Executive Director of [GreenMichigan.org](https://www.greenmichigan.org), informed our group of both entities in relation to environmental sustainability. ICLEI was founded in the 1990s and is a membership organization with members that include Washington D.C., the City of Chicago, the City of Detroit, and close to 400 governments, tribal nations, and regional authorities, “with the idea that local governments should play a role in the conversation that relates to climate change,” according to Angela. She continued that when the conversations in the 90s were happening at a global scale, local governments were not a part of that conversation and, as we have seen in the last two weeks with

unprecedented storms and rising waters, that sustainability and unpredictability related to climate change are happening at a local level where the governments are responsible for taking action. ICLEI supports local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping to establish a baseline, set goals, and prioritize and implement high-impact actions. Angela consults on circular economy work that includes sustainable procurement, composting, and recycling. To learn more about ICLEI, visit their website at <https://icleiusa.org/>.



Angela also helps tackle sustainability concerns in Muskegon County in her spare time with Green Michigan. Her most notable program can be seen at the Muskegon Farmer's Market where she also partners with Organicycle and the Muskegon County Community Foundation on a 24/7 program for a compost drop-off.



When asked what items could be composted, she gave several examples including some uncommonly thought of items such as all paper/cotton Q-tips and even fingernail clippings. Between the city's recycling program and the composting program, Angela said there is very little that needs to be thrown in the trash; however, the one item she is looking for a trash alternative solution is kitty litter. If you are interested in participating, [click here](#) or the QR Code below to sign up or visit www.greenmichigan.org/compost to learn more. Donations and volunteers are welcome too! Email Angela@greenmichigan.org to volunteer **or** donate.

Rotary in Action Mary Beth Ramos



Discover the inspiring journey of **Mary Beth Ramos** as she shares how moving to Muskegon led her to meaningful service through Rotary International. Taking a personal risk with a career change that allowed her to become a part of Muskegon Rotary has opened doors for Mary Beth.

Motivated by a deeply personal connection to the fight against polio, Mary Beth highlights Rotary's global impact—from eradicating disease to providing clean water in underserved communities.

Her story reflects the power of volunteerism, personal growth, and taking risks that open unexpected doors, all while strengthening Muskegon's spirit of service and connection.



Presidential Announcements



1. **President Dave** reminded us to limit Rotary announcements to one minute. Further details should be placed in the RIM.

2. The **next ReWine** meeting will be on **Thursday May 7 at the Vault**. (See schedule on page 5.)

3. The **Muskegon Rotary Party in the Park is Friday May 29**. Please respond to PIP Chair Andrew Cutler's call for volunteers. Jenny McNeil and Logan Metcalf have agreed to serve as co-chairs this year and going forward. Thank you!

4. Please use the SignUp Genius to participate in our Club's **Saturday, May 2 Visioning session at the GVSU Hub from 9:00 to 12:00**. President Dave especially encouraged our younger members to participate to help create the Club they want.

5. Be mindful of the long-standing **Muskegon Rotary policy on political candidates**. They are welcome as members' guests, but introductions are limited to name and office being sought. No candidates for elected office may be program speakers or part of a program. Campaign literature is not permitted on lunch tables nor the sharing table.

Announcements



Roger Morgenstern asked members to use SignUp Genius to participate in the joint service project with the Grand Rapids Rotary on **Saturday, May 9** at the North Muskegon Microforest from 9-11:30 a.m. followed by social time at Hobo's.



Lisa Tyler put on her Rotary hat to remind members the United Way Day of Caring begins at 8 am, **Friday April 24** at MCC for breakfast. Pick up your volunteer tee shirt this evening at Unruly Brewing from 5 to 7 pm.



Annette Jack reminds members of the Peace Builders workshop, Bridging the Political Divide, next **Friday, May 1 from 1-4:00 pm**. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-62697036-bridging#>

Announcements cont.



John Noling and Stephanie Tushek, Life Leadership, reminded folks of the June Conference and Muskegon Rotary's involvement going back 77 years to the beginning. They also thanked the volunteers who helped with interviews for the record number of participants for this year's conference.



Kaitlin Hermanson reminds Rotarians of the remaining Pours events for beverages and socializing. (See schedule on right.)



Arn Boezaart thanked Rotarians and friends for a successful Food Truck on April 22. The group helped distribute 1500 lbs. of fresh food, serving 225 households. (See photos on [page ?](#))

President Dave reminded members of the sign-up sheets in the lobby to volunteer at the Muskegon Rescue Mission and Kids Food Basket. We will add opportunities to help at McLaughlin Grows in the near future.



Pours Events

Tuesday, April 28

7:30 to 9:30 am

Community House **

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-62923981-pourscommunity#

Thursday, April 30

5 to 7:00 pm

Muskegon Brewing

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-62924159-pours- /](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-62924159-pours-/)

**Please note, his event is a morning coffee hour.

Thank you to our sponsors!

[Click here to see the video.](#)

ReWine Meeting Information May and June 2026

Thursday, May 7 Core Plaza
Thursday May 21 The Corner

Thursday June 4 Core Plaza
Thursday June 18 TBA

RSVP by Wednesday at 5:00 pm for the meeting on Thursday.

Contact **Kaytie**

Drake at kaytieely@aol.com to RSVP.
(Total # attending including guests)

RIM Reporting Team

Editors—Susan Besteman, Jackie Farrar, and Ginny Sprague

Reporters—Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Sue Samaniego, Meredith Smillie, and Ginny Sprague

Photographers—Wyatt Huggett, Brock Johnson, Emily Morgenstern, and Roger Morgenstern



Muskegon Rising

**Rotary District 6290
Volunteer Opportunities**

<https://ridistrict6290.org/sitepage/open-district-volunteer-roles/>

Saturday, May 16, is the Epic Day of Service, nationwide. Rotarians will partner with local communities and other organizations to complete service projects in their area.



**Muskegon Rotary Youth Exchange
Community Yard Sale for a Cause**

**May 15-17, 2026
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**United Way of the Lakeshore
31 East Clay Avenue, Muskegon, MI**

Muskegon Rotarians, outbound youth exchange families, and friends are invited to help our Youth Exchange by donating usable items for the Yard Sale. Please help by coming to the Yard Sale to purchase items as well.

Remember the old saying, "One person's junk is another person's treasure!"

Rotary Youth Exchange Cookbook

**Around the Table, Around the World:
A Rotary Youth Exchange Cookbook**

is more than a collection of recipes. It is a celebration of culture, hospitality, and the connections that are built when we open our homes and share a meal.

Inside these pages, you will find favorite dishes from host families around the world and from our current inbound exchange students who are spending the year here in West Michigan.

Each recipe represents more than ingredients. It represents a family, a tradition, a memory, and the spirit of exchange that brings people together across languages and borders.

Digital copies are available for \$5, and printed copies can be purchased for \$10 and picked up at Rotary.

Order yours today:

<https://bit.ly/2026RYECookbook>