

For more information, call 231.727.8001 **Polar Plunge...Brrr**!



RIM Aqua Reporter **Bob Scolnik** covered the Muskegon Polar Plunge Saturday, and had no idea how well attended it would be. Hundreds of people were there and about 350 people jumped through the ice into Muskegon Lake. Costumes as well as various plunging techniques were judged by Bob and four other notables. Boys & Girls Club Exec and young and healthy Rotarian **Dakota Crow** took the Plunge and was able to raise \$2155 as he froze his hair



and other parts. Dakota, costumed as Darth Vader, left, won for being the Last Plunger,

and he celebrated a new record. The total raised was \$100,340 - an incredible fundraiser!

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"Brave Heroes" Winner

Our lucky Holiday Inn hero, aka "Brave Rotarian," was Bill Johanson. His winnings were a highly coveted Paul Harris Fellowship and, courtesy of Doug Pollock, two nights at the Muskegon Harbor Holiday Inn, and \$100 to spend at the Third Street Grill. Thanks to all who participated in this contest and helped secure a \$1,000 contribution to the RI Foundation. Below, daughter and mother, Heidi Adams and Pam Babbitt finish up Heroes. Next contest soon.



Visiting Rotarians & Guests

Daughter Heidi Adams (Pam Babbitt): Read Muskegon's Sarah Klassen (Melissa Moore); County Teachers Insurance Principal Charles Ritter (John Selmon); Muskegon Ironmen Owner/ President Terrance Williams (Diane Van Epps)-first game on March 11; Garland Company's and prospective member TJ Morris (Dakota Crow); West Michigan Works' Kathy Rohlman and Jared Schuitemen (Brittany Lenertz); Nexes Realty's Brock Conklin (Nate O'Brien); USS Silversides Submarine Muskegon CEO Wes O'Donnell (Dawn Johnson/CLUB); MCC Rotaractors Braxton Gerdes and Megan Romkema (Rotaract Committee Budget). Student guests came from Calvary Christian School along with Supt Tom Kampenga. They were Allison Richards, Rachel Huston, and Adam Kampenga. Bob Chapla had the pleasure of introducing students from Muskegon High School, home of the Big Reds: Sam Cornett, Deanna _____, and Corey Sutton.

<u>NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS – COMMITTEE MEMBERS,</u> GUESTS, ETC, ETC, ETC, ETC

This Week On Stage

When Lana Carson and her husband ran the former OMNI Fitness Center, she was forever working with clients trying to lose pounds and get healthy. What a coincidence that she, one of OMNI's pound buddies would later head up Pound Buddies, a shelter for homeless, abused or neglected dogs and cats. If you're ready for some pet adopting, don't miss this program.

Grape Escape Charity Partner Sought

The Muskegon Rotary *Grape Escape* Committee, announcing that this major fundraising event is Wednesday, October 4, 2017 from 6 to 9 pm at the Frauenthal Center, is seeking applications from charitable, 501(c)3 organizations to be our 2017 beneficiary of funds in the amount of \$10,000 towards direct service programs that show evidence-based outcomes. More than \$130,000 has been raised over 13 years for programs that impact our community. The Grape Escape 2017 Charity RFP can be found our website: <u>http://muskegonrotary.org/grapeescape-2017-beneficiary/</u>

Regular Meeting Highlights



Jim Fisher had the honor of welcoming Will Meier, a former Rotarian now returning to the fold. A very active

community resident who is chairman of the North Muskegon Board of Education and serving on the boards of Hospice, Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Habitat for Humanity; a natural born Rotarian with service as his credo. Club District with a membership Welcome back, Will



Red Star removal day: Doug Woods, left, carefully reminded us that he is removing the red star from his boss, Jim Nielsen, carefully because he did not want to seem pushy to his leader. Yup, been there, done that.



President Josh invited a number of Rotarians to the podium to receive the Green Apple award. Each of the R's who participated in one or more healthy activities was blessed with a sticker that indicated they are on their way to a more healthy lifestyle. Activities to earn the Green Apple Award can be for participation in the Seaway Run as a runner or volunteer, giving blood, or participating in a sport one has not tried before.

President Josh informed the audience that our Cub has increased from 220 to 235 members since a year ago; and this Club is 1 of 3 clubs in the 60greater than 200. Wow. That is

an accomplishment. But more than that, another 6 members and we become the biggest Club, beating out Traverse City and Grand Rapids.

Committee reports followed and world traveler Susan Crain reminded members to check websites of other Rotary clubs as they travel the country or abroad. Good connections and new friends can materialize and be of benefit to both clubs as well as spreading the energy of Rotary around the world.

Two Rotaract students from Muskegon Community College joined the club for lunch today. Braxton Gerdes informed the club about the Global Awareness Festival at MCC next week, beginning 2/15. Megan Romkema thanked Rotary for donations to the chili cook off to be held this evening, 2/9. Monies earned from the chili cook off will go towards the future trip to El Salvador to install water filters. MCC is also holding a food drive to distribute to the needy in this area .Donations are welcome.

Bill Erickson of International Aid fame told us about a kick ball game to be held at I.A. on 2/15 with dollars earned directed to Native American causes.

Pam Babbitt along with her daughter selected the winning tickets for the last draw of the 10 Brave Rotarians contest. Only two tickets remained. First to be pulled and a loser, was none other than President Josh who could not believe he lost by a thread. The winner is our own RIM Editor and the News Room's Chief Cook and Bottle Washer: the man who is editing these words (blushing), Bill Johanson. With his winning smile and humble ways, he thanked the Club for his lucky selection. And for winning of the Paul Harris Fellowship.

Last Week's Program A new generation of **United States Veterans**



Presented by Wes O'Donnell. **Executive Director of the USS** Silversides Museum

Dawn Johnson invited Wes O'Donnell, above, recently appointed Executive Director of the USS Silversides Submarine to the podium. Wes is a veteran of the US Army and US Airforce, serving a total of 10 years. He is a spokesman for Veterans and has been delivering speeches about the advantages of hiring veterans to organizations across the country. Today we are fortunate to have him with us.

There is a new generation of veterans in America. They've been labeled the Post 9/11 Veterans or the Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans, but I prefer the term Modern Veteran. These men and women are smart; smarter than every generation that's come before. They're technologically savvv because most of them are Generation-X or Millennials. In addition, they've been in direct contact with some of the most technologically advanced equipment that a 21st century democracy can provide.I believe that in the next two decades, Modern Veterans are going to be responsible for one of the largest economic booms in U.S. history. As a byproduct of their military service, veterans have the stomach to take risks, the ability to deal with ambiguity, composure and creativity under extreme pressure and an unparalleled focus on TEAM as the way to win a fight. These men and women are the best-kept secret in business and why your competitors are hiring veterans as fast as they can.

Before we explore why Modern Veterans are right for business, I'd like to share some of the myths and misconceptions that some companies have approached me with, as well as one big false narrative that needs to be destroyed once and for all.

Click here for remainder of program

https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.n et/00000001911/enca/files/homepage/a-new-generationof-veterans-in-the-united-states/Wes-O-Donnell---Muskegon-Rotary-Clubmeeting-of-February-9-part-2.pdf

-- Frank Marczak

Mark Your Calendars

ON FEBRUARY 23, MARCH 9, AND MARCH 23, WE WILL MEET AT SHORELINE INN.

Get Your Chili On! raises over \$5000



Judging by the parking lot overflows and the quick disappearance of the chili, Thursday night's Get Your Chili On! fundraiser was a

great success. Over 275 happy people got their "Grub at the Hub."



The real success, however, other than



supplying our 23 students with more water filters and building materials, was seeing Rotarians at work together

members

who worked

together to

involve so

Rotarians

community

many

and

with Interactors, Rotaractors from five clubs, plus the parents and other community members who came out to support this effort.

Kudos to all the Rotaract and interact students. volunteers, and ReWine Rotary



members in this effort.

Each student can now go to Honduras or El Salvador with even more of an investment in the good they will be doing.





For the record, every chili was really the winner last night. But, after voting, some rose above the others. In

first place, **Bill Loxterman**, above on right, with his, would you believe it, "This is not **John Noling**'s chili" ...??... Where in the world, except Muskegon,would you ever see this? Great chili, Lox, no question! He has a secret ingredient, too.

In second place, Rob Scheweifler, above



with Lox, from American Home in Spring

Lake, who came loaded for bear with a great chili and plenty of it! Third place went to Eric Wahlberg's famous Mona Shores Chili and was quite





the rage. In fourth, Denise Bentley, mom of Ava Bentley who is going on the El Salvador trip, wowed the crowd's taste buds with her great chili.

The sponsors of this event were amazing. Please let them know:

American House of Spring Lake Baker College-Culinary Institute of Michigan Fairlife-Coopersville Full Moon Tavern, Doris Kittle GVSU Muskegon Innovation Hub Holiday Inn Muskegon-Third Street Grille Knoll, Inc. Lakeshore Fitness Center, MCC

Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Shoreline Inn and the Lake House Grille