






# “Service Above Self”

# Muskegon Rotary in Motion

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>




Jane Clingman-Scott, President  
 Ginny Sprague, President-Elect  
 Tim Arter, President Nominee  
 Jason Piasecki, Past President  
 Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer  
 Don Hutchins, Secretary  
 Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator



## Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916

Next Mtg—June 22, 2023, 12-1:30pm

**The Lake House**

ReWine Sat Club—Next mtg 7/20/23 5:15 pm  
 Walker's (in the Delta)



Marty Gerencer, Director  
 Aaron Maie, Director  
 Roger Morgenstern, Director  
 David Ramos, Director  
 Asaline Scott, Director  
 Marty Sytsema, Director  
 Jackie Farrar, RIM Reporter  
 Roger Morgenstern, RIM Photographer  
 Lori Weiler, RIM Editor



### THE FOUR WAY TEST THAT ROTARIANS USE IN MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS:

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

## Next Meeting (6/22/23) — Youth Exchange Students Farewell Talks

“This is it: the absolute edge of no return: to turn back now and make home or sail irrevocably on and either find land or plunge over the world's roaring rim” - William Faulkner

### MEETER - GREETER

Kim Taylor & Lisa Tyler

### REFLECTORS

Kathy Moore June 22  
 Emily Morgenstern June 29  
 (Contact Eileen Stoffan if you can help)

### NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Annette Jack Jun 22  
 Joanie Smith Jun 22

### Caring Connections Fund

(Remember to donate \$10 on your birthday for this great cause!)

### PROGRAMS / EVENTS

June 22—Youth Exchange Students Farewell Talks  
 June 29—Passing the Gavel

### Muskegon Rotary Board

Jane Clingman-Scott	Ginny Sprague
Tim Arter	Jason Piasecki
Kristi Nagengast	Don Hutchins
Marty Sytsema	Kim Boersema
Jeff Lewis	Asaline Scott
David Ramos	Marty Gerencer
Aaron Maie	

Please email Club Board

Members through this [link](#):

### VISITORS & GUESTS



John Selmon introduces his colleague Sue Samaniego, Chief Advancement Officer for Muskegon Community College and its Foundation.

It was also Bring A Guest But Skip the Meeting Day apparently....



Jackie Fisher introduces hubby Jim Fisher's guest and visiting Rotarian Mike Steindler.



Rachel Gorman introduces her fellow city commissioner Michael Ramsey's guest, Muskegon Public Works Director Dan VanderHeide



Gabrielle Gerlach, on the day she got inducted, started in a big way with bringing her guest and recently retired Muskegon YMCA CEO and former Rotarian Bruce Spoelman...and he got a Paul Harris Fellow later in the meeting!!

Not pictured: Consumers Energy retiree Tom Spelman.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget to pay April dues

Members are encouraged to like the Rotary Facebook page [here](#)

Community Mixer June 16 at  
Mona Lake Park 5-9pm

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Committee Tune-Up

Speaker – Jane Clingman-Scott

Reporter – Jackie Farrar

The Muskegon Rotary Club ends each meeting by citing the Four-Way Test: "Is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendships, and will it be beneficial to all concerned". The Rotary Committees collaborate with the four-way test in mind on how we can make our community and world a better place. The seven areas of focus include:

- Rotary has been able to provide service trips to Honduras, youth development, COVID response (vaccine clinics), and Gambia health support to name a few. This is done through committee work, collaborations, grants, and fund development.

## Committee and Chairperson Responsibilities

[illegible]

Rotary committee members support the work being done internally by keeping members informed, communicating with other committees, sharing resources, building capacity, and sharing knowledge. The external work being done by members is through promoting the Rotary brand, inviting new members, building a network of supporters, and reaching out to the community.



*President Jane WAS the program this week with her great explanation of the “committee tune up” process she has shepherded during her Rotary year. The committee structure will be published in a future edition of RIM and members are encouraged to reach out to board members or committee leaders for more information. Thanks for your leadership, President Jane!*



The responsibilities of the committees are to have a clear mission that is consistent with the Rotary International and Local Club goals, taking care of volunteers and members, scheduling regular meetings with an agenda, having clear communication within the club and with outside partners, and reporting to the Board.

The council chairperson is responsible for oversight of the committees under the umbrella of their council. In addition to providing support and guidance to these committees, the council chairperson should conduct a joint meeting of all the committee chairpersons in their council at least twice a year. If a committee chairperson resigns, creating a vacancy, the council chairperson is responsible for assisting the President-Elect in finding a new chair.

The term of office for a council chairperson is two years. The chairperson may elect to serve one additional two-year term.

The Muskegon Rotary Club members will see a quarterly increase in dues effective July 1, 2023 of \$166.00 and \$91.00 for ReWine.

### Making It Easy to Give

#### Rotary QR Codes

- Available for Fund Raising Events

#### Or Special Appeals

- Board Approved Projects
- Arranged by Board Treasurer



Consider giving to the Muskegon Rotary Club by using the Rotary QR Code

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### RIM Reporting Team

Susan Besteman	Jackie Farrar
Kathy Moore	Roger Morgenstern
Meredith Smillie	Lori Weiler
Mark Alpher, Photographer	
Bill Johanson, Contributor	
John Noling, Contributor	
Mike Vogas, Contributor	



The Muskegon Rotary Club wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the Muskegon High School Class of 1965 Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Their generous \$1500 donation again this year has allowed four additional MHS students to attend the Rotary Life Leadership Conference now under way at Ferris State University.

## Paul Harris Fellows

This week Muskegon Rotarians celebrated two Paul Harris Fellows. Here is what you missed:

**Christine Robere** introduced her friend and fellow nonprofit champion Carolyn Bloodworth as our next Paul Harris Fellow.



"I am proud to present this candidate for recognition by the Muskegon Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow. From the quality of their character, their deep passion for Michigan and seeing Michigan grow and prosper, to

the positive energy and real can-do attitude and the spirit and love of the work and opportunities created, she epitomizes the Rotary motto of service above self. Two of my favorite quotes of this candidate are:

*"Education needs to be more than just reading and writing. We need to build young people and their character, build them as people, and as citizens."*

And,

*"Listen ten times more than you speak.....the more you listen the more you see."*

Married for more than 40 years, the mother of two and new grandmother this week,

Carolyn Bloodworth is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Consumers Energy Foundation and the CMS Energy Foundation. She also serves as the corporation's Executive Director of Corporate Giving. Her responsibilities include corporate philanthropy and coordination of various community relations activities, including volunteer engagement and recognition. She currently serves as a member of the board of directors for Michigan Association of United Ways, the Michigan Nonprofit Association and the Michigan FFA Foundation. She has served on a number of local and statewide nonprofit boards throughout her career, including the Michigan FFA Association, Food Bank Council of Michigan, Michigan Community Service Commission and the Council of Michigan Foundations. I have known Carolyn for more than 20 years and can say that she is one of the most passionate individuals I have ever met about philanthropy, service and volunteerism in Michigan.

Carolyn received her Bachelor of Arts in Management of Human Resources from Spring Arbor University.

She is an effective team builder who works tirelessly to meet the basic

needs of Michigan residents through Consumers Energy Foundation and Consumers Energy employee volunteers. Throughout her tenure as director of Corporate Giving at Consumers Energy, she has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for communities in Michigan. Her enthusiasm for volunteering is contagious; not only does she manage corporate giving; she mobilizes her coworkers to volunteer as well. Several years in a row, the Consumers Energy team was the largest group at our Muskegon Day of Caring. As a friend of hers on Facebook, her generosity with her time and energy is amazing.

Under Bloodworth's direction, Consumers Energy Foundation supported United Ways with the Statewide rollout of 2-1-1, the 3-digit number and database to access human services help and United Way's ALICE report in Michigan on the barriers faced by working families. In addition, she has led efforts through the foundation, employees and retirees resulting in annual donations to support to United Ways in support of human service programs in Muskegon and across Michigan.

Locally, in recent years, grants of over one million have supported Muskegon with the following programs. (read from attached list)

Bloodworth's career represents a distinctive collaboration of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. She has made a profound impact on youth, education, and community development within Michigan.

Her colleagues both active and retired from Consumers Energy inspired by her service and are here to join in this celebration of this well-deserved honor are a testament to her servant leadership as well."

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**Past President Jason Piasecki** introduced and then congratulated new Paul Harris Fellow Bruce Spoelman, the recently retired CEO of the Muskegon YMCA.



"It is my privilege to introduce today's honoree.

They were born in Muskegon in 1957.

Our awardee has two older brothers who said this longtime Rotarian was their mom's favorite.

Our recipient owned their own sailboat in high school and was a Muskegon High graduate in 1975, where they were a state qualifier in swimming with a time of 22.7 seconds in the 50 freestyle. They also played trombone in the band in high school and attended Blue Lake Fine Arts camp.

Our honoree did overseas mission work while at boarding school in the Himalayas.

They attended:

- Northern Michigan University for two years before transferring to
- Central Michigan University (Fire Up!) and graduating with BS in Outdoor Recreation in 1979
- They went on to earn their Master from Indiana University in 1983 in Administration and Management Recreation Facilities

Our awardee's first job was picking blueberries in junior high.

They went on to own several businesses during their career, including:

- A fire prevention company

- An information services company
- As well as working as CFO of Torreson Marine

A few fun facts about our recipient include:

- They had a habit of singing at the top of their lungs during their 3x/week spin classes at the Y
- They drink hot tea in a flask all day long
- Typos and bad grammar are pet peeves
- Loves walking meetings
- They rub the top of their head in meetings when they get stressed out
- He married his wife, Margaret, in 1977.

His first daughter Katie was born in 1989 and was followed by his second daughter Gretchen in 1992.

His hobbies include:

- Fixing things
- Working around the house
- Gardening
- Cycling—He once fractured his neck falling off his bike on a solo bike ride and still managed to get back on his bike and ride 13 miles home before going to the ER
- Swimming
- Running—I often see him down at Pete Marquette while I'm walking
- Hiking
- Boating
- Reading
- Playing the piano
- Mentoring
- ...and Travel—Where he has an inexplicable love of irreverent wayfinding signs

This soon-to-be Paul Harris Fellow served as:

- A YMCA camp Support Services Director in the 80s
- Executive Director of YMCA Camp Pandalouan from 2004-2022 and the

- CEO of the Muskegon YMCA for 8+ years—all of which the Y was in the black—before retiring in March 2023

Where when recovering from a medical procedure, he was overheard asking the doctor in a very slurred voice, "Do you have kids?"

"Yes," said the doc.

To which he answered, "Have they ever been to YMCA Camp Pentalouan?"

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## New Rotarian Gabrielle Gerlach

Gabrielle Gerlach, CEO of the Muskegon YMCA, has been a leader within the Y for over 6 years. The Muskegon Y strives to build a happier and healthier community, and as CEO, Gabe utilizes her skills in business development, fiscal management, and donor development to guide the organization towards achieving that mission.



YMCA board member **Randy Lindquist** introduced our newest Rotarian, YMCA CEO **Gabrielle Gerlach**. Welcome!

Gabe is a lifelong learner who is passionate about inclusion, experiential education, conservation, and getting outdoors. Gabe's passions and values inform her work as she seeks innovative ways to address community needs. She is devoted to creating equitable programming and meeting the needs of the staff, volunteers, board members, donors,

and community members that she serves.

In 2021, Gabe designed and opened a new Child Care Center. Informed by her work as both a Day Camp Operations Director at Walt Disney World and as a teacher, Gabe designed an equitable and accessible center for children aged six weeks to five years. The Y Learning Center meets the needs of the Muskegon community as a high-quality, affordable childcare center.

Outside of her role at the Y, Gabe is happily married (15 years!) and has 3 awesome kids. She is the oldest of four siblings and credits this with her exemplary problem-solving skills. She enjoys being outdoors, especially hiking and all things water, as well as visiting national parks and playing board games.

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It looks like **Dave Alexander** is almost examining BINGO cards as he had quite the collection of 50-50 tickets. Apparently, he did not win.



## Coming Soon....

There is a new outreach effort underway with the Interact Committee, now cochaired by **Randy Lindquist** and **John Noling**. We call the program ***This Is What I Do***.

It is a Vocational Spotlight Video Series, hosted by Rotarians who interview local men and women employed at various jobs throughout Muskegon County. Each month we interview a young person, relatively new to the workforce, about their journey to the job they are in. The program is posted to our Muskegon Rotary web site and YouTube Channel. The MAISD is providing support to put the programs to work with local students. More connections will be worked for.

One of Rotary's goals is to grow the local economy. To this end we assist local students in making rewarding job choices and grow the local economy by keeping them in our community to build their families and their livelihood. With a plethora of local jobs waiting to be done, we are curating a list of workers, both white collar and craft, to share their stories of education, training, experience, and character. Their passion for their work and appreciation of what we have here in Muskegon County is the essence we are searching for. The series is produced by Mike Vogas.

A lunch program is scheduled for Aug.31. There are currently twelve video programs for area youth posted on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@muskegonrotary/playlists>





New Paul Harris Fellow Carolyn Bloodworth, center, Executive Director of Corporate Giving for Consumers Energy, has always counted her work colleagues among her family. Here's a small sampling of her West Michigan "family" who have worked alongside her for more years than any of them want to admit!

*RIM* Publisher Emeritus **Bill Johanson** said there was no question he'd make it to Club to honor his longtime friend and Consumers Energy colleague Carolyn Bloodworth as she received a Paul Harris Fellow this week. Bill doesn't make it to Club as much as he'd like, but he certainly held court with his fellow Rotarians! *RIM* continues to rely on Bill for his wisdom, humor and Rotary news tips!



**Bill** with his daughter Carrie Kelly and fellow IU alum **Nancy Crandall**.



**Bill's** gift of gab and making people laugh was on display chatting with his fellow Rotarian and fellow Indiana University alum **Nancy Crandall**.



**Bill Johanson** catches up with friend **Bill Loxterman**. Probably talking about other Bills in the Club...





**SAVE THE DATE:** Harvest Fest, Rotary's newest event and fall fundraiser for our Foundation, is 5-9 p.m. on **Thursday, Oct. 26**. We'll gather downtown at Baker College's Culinary Institute of Michigan (CIM) where students will prepare and serve a variety of delicious appetizers and desserts. There will be a small and unique selection of silent auction items, a 50/50 raffle, wine/beer/soft drinks, music, and more! Tickets go on sale in July and will be **\$65 until Sept. 15, then \$75 starting Sept. 16**. Each ticket includes one free beverage, delicious fall-themed food, and a signature Harvest Fest glass. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold, and prices will increase as we move into fall so get 'em early! We're proud to partner with Read Muskegon as our non-profit recipient for this event. This partnership continues our focus on the importance of literacy in our community highlighted by this past Rotary Year and **President Jane**. More info to come; any questions can be directed to co-chairs **Dave Alexander** and **Roger Morgenstern**.

## PR Committee Update

Contributed by Bob Scolnik



On Monday, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, the new Rotary Public Relations and Outreach Committee met with Committee Chair, Marla Schneider, in the training room at the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber and the Greater Muskegon Economic Development organization.

Marla joined GMED as President/CEO on June 1, 2022, and quickly joined the Muskegon Rotary Club. The 90-minute meeting was an important starting point for an invigorated committee to begin building transparency and accountability into the committee. The group discussed building capacity and how to communicate effectively. Also, how we promote Rotary to the community for new members and sponsorships as well as promoting our public image.

Finally, several subcommittees were organized: Social, Media, Press Releases, Newsletter, Club Runner, Rotary Meeting Announcements, Website, and Videos & Photos. More information will be announced soon.

## Sockathon 2023

The unofficial "Sockathon" competition between Gary Nelund and Bob Scolnik, (and others) is in full swing with no sign of letting up at the Rotary meetings. Check out the delightful foot tubes pictured below and see if *you* can guess who wore the Leg of Einstein and who was showing off his Phone Home style? (answer provided in next week's *RIM*)

