



"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—August 11, 2022, 12-1:30pm

The Lake House - Hybrid

ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 8/18/22 5:15 pm

Pigeon Hill Brewery



Jeff Lewis, Director
 Marty Sytsema, Director
 Asaline Scott, Director
 David Ramos, Director
 Marty Gerencer, Director
 Susan Holkeboer, RIM Reporter
 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 (08/11/22) — Muskegon Community Educational Center

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

Lisa Tyler

REFLECTOR

Jack Briggs Aug 4
 Alan Alpert Aug 11
 Eileen Stoffen Aug 18
 Joanie Smith Aug 25

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga Aug 11
 Darlene Collet Aug 13
 Dale Strasler Aug 13
 Robert Taylor Aug 14
 Asaline Scott Aug 16

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

8/4 – Committee Updates
 8/11 – Muskegon Community Educational Center
 8/18 – Infill Housing Update
 8/25 – District Governor Visit

There is no video available from the August 4 meeting.

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VISITORS & GUESTS



Stephen Tomczak is a Loan Officer at PierPoint Mortgage. Stephen is sponsored by Pam Babbitt and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board and will be inducted in the next few weeks.

ReWine Update



Interactors Erin Kanaar, Allison Tate, Aby Silvis, and Allison Friesner presented their proposal to a large turnout for Muskegon Rotary ReWine for raising

\$2,500 per high school to bring Molly Kennedy to speak at area high schools. Molly's price per school includes a large assembly presentation and a small group presentation with either teachers or student leaders at each school. The Interactors are exploring various avenues for raising money.



Volunteering for Irish Fest is a go. John Noling is the contact person so please let him know if you are interested in volunteering for a shift leading a team of Interactors. We will be stocking powder rooms at the festival.

Upcoming events:

August 18 ReWine at Pigeon Hill 5:15pm
 Aug 20 Fish boil at the Montague Bandstand
 Sept 1 ReWine at North Grove Brewing
 Sept 15-18 Michigan Irish Music Fest

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

Committee Understanding

Moderator - Jane Clingman-Scott.

Reporter - Susan Holkeboer

The panel consisted of (pictured l to r) **John Noling**, Co-Chair of Life Leadership with **Brianna Scott** (not pictured) and serves with **Joanie Smith** on **Randy Lindquist's** Interact Committee; **Joanie Smith**, International Youth Exchange and Interact Committee; **Rob Taylor**, Chairman of this year's Seaway Run Committee (which just concluded); and **Mary Anne Gorman**, Membership Council and Membership Recruitment.

Question: What is the purpose of your committee and how you are accomplishing your goals?

John - Life Leadership is designed to invest in youth following this mantra, "The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope." We think we can take kids from our community and invest some time with them in leadership development - specifically a conference that takes place in the summer that this club started in 1949 and is still running 73 years later. Students are mentored so they can get involved in Interact, scholarships, youth exchange and other aspects of Rotary before they graduate and hopefully send them to a university somewhere so they can continue Rotary traditions.

Joanie - In terms of youth exchange, it's a similar goal. In the 60s, the youth exchange was invented by the US State Department and Rotary International to try to bring world peace closer to reality. When students go abroad or come here, they learn other countries are wonderful and people are people whether they speak your language, dress like you, think like you. So it's a wonderful experience; it's for a whole year. Many youth exchange programs have part of a year and pay the host parents and the



persons who recruit. We don't do that so we can do more.

Rob - The Seaway Run is about fitness. Muskegon has struggled with health and fitness in the past so anything we can do to promote that improves our community. I'm a health and fitness fanatic. Think about walking, running, bicycling, any type of outdoor recreation are ways to that goal. The second purpose of the committee is to support that run by securing sponsors. The run is one of our biggest fundraisers. Securing volunteers to help with the race is very important. In past years partnership with the YMCA have not been enough to earn our fair share. We did better this year and I look forward to even more participation in the next year.

Mary Anne - The goal of membership recruitment is to invite and introduce prospective members to what Rotary is all about. This past year we had a goal of getting back to the number of members we had before Covid. We got about half way there.

Question: What is your time frame for meeting your goals - is it measured in weeks or months or years?

Mary Anne - At the end of June we had increased our numbers by 20, but we're not just interested in numbers. One of Rotary International's goals is diversity. We're at 7% which is great. We'd like to see more representation of business and

manufacturing as well as young people. We've reached out to Emily Morgenstern and the junior JC for members.

Rob - The Seaway Run is annual event so that's our timeline. We're going to get started early for next year beginning Black Friday. We'll get into the budget cycle of our sponsors to secure more sponsors.

Joanie - Our youth exchange timeline is months and years. We begin recruiting kids in middle school and ninth grade. We work on finding host parents which is the toughest part of the job. The kids take a year to apply, are interviewed by us and the district committees with lots of paperwork. There are four workshops per year to help them know how to act and what to expect when they get there. They go in August outbound and inbounds come at the same time for a year.

John - Recruiting for Life Leadership for next year has already begun. We sent 22, Montague:Whitehall sent 7. That's 29. We had to have a school bus take them up this year. There were only 102 students at the conference itself so 1 out of 4 almost was from Muskegon or Whitehall/Montague. We are recruiting on a timeline that ends in May and we want to find one student from every school in the county except for Montague and Whitehall.

Question: What are the personal attributes that are much valued by your committee?

John - Someone who's not afraid to go into a public or parochial school, meet students on their own turf, work with counselors, principals, assistant principals, and help find the student that is most worthy in that high school for attending this conference. We invest a lot of legwork. Those are the kinds of member skill sets for the committee we really need.

Joanie - You need to love kids, have a youthful attitude. Need to be able to listen and take time to find out who the kids really are.

Rob - We value those who aren't afraid to walk into businesses and nonprofits and have connections and can ask for donations to support such a good cause.

Mary Anne - Need people who can channel Orville Crain. People who can ask others to come to a luncheon to find out what Muskegon Rotary is all about. Or invite to a service project, Party in the Park, food truck, etc.

Question: What incentive do you provide for your committee members?

Mary Anne - Each one reach one.

Rob - Fun and you get a T-shirt.

Joanie - Students get T-shirts. Members get to meet fabulous kids who are amazing. They come back, they visit us and bring us up to date on what they have done. The kid get to meet **Christy Pollack** who was an exchange student herself to Japan and now she's a university professor of Japanese. It's an exciting program.

John - inspiration is our incentive. Prior to Covid, we used to interview all these students from the Muskegon area schools around a big table at the intermediate school district at 10-12-minute intervals. Now, because of Covid, we're on site at each of the schools and it's a longer interview. It means travel. The inspiration comes from just feeling you're a constructive part of improving a young person's life.

Final question: How do you see yourself and your committee working towards the goals of Rotary International?

John - Youth services is one of our five avenues of service. Rotary's addition of environmental sustainability and peace building most recently are seven areas of focus that inspire me as a former teacher to say that the young people we're working with in Muskegon County peace building and climate change and environmental sustainability ring some chimes with these people. I'm so pleased that my Rotary International has adopted those areas of focus because I think it gives our Interact clubs and our life leadership conferees more to chew on and more to work on.

Joanie - Our students go to another country, live with families there, learn the language, learn the culture, learn the food (even if they don't like it), really immerse themselves in what it's like, they also usually have some difficulty when they get back re-entering our culture because they have really become a part of the family in another country.

Rob - Being the biggest fundraiser that this club does, a lot of the money raised goes to our international purposes.

Mary Anne - I think participating in membership council whether it's member recruitment or retention and engagement. An organization is only as strong as all of its membership. You have to grow your membership and retain and engage your members. Also important to build local economy. We have a lot to do in our own community. What better place to do that than in our own Muskegon Rotary advocating for a healthier and stronger community with an economy that works for all.

Jane - We have 220 members. There are 87 members who are not yet connected to a committee. Think about what you heard today, the work they do, how they connect to the world. This is a chance to make a huge impact on your community.

Interact Insider

Life Leadership Conference Reports

Adelyn Whitmer, Muskegon High School

Adelyn Witmer, now a sophomore at Muskegon High School, is involved in the Poppen Program for Creative Writing and is helping to reestablish the Rotary Interact club at MHS.



"The Rotary Life Leadership Conference was a blast. I enjoyed the speeches, but the schedule was a bit crammed. It left me tired, but maybe that was for the best. I wasn't a huge fan of Coach McPherson's team building exercises (it often felt like just when we were getting somewhere with the current rules, they would expand the rules in the name of encouraging us to think outside the box), but I absolutely loved the sessions and the talent show! As for speakers and how they impacted me, I've kept Anne Bonney's message of 'action shrivels anxiety' with me, and it has and will help in many situations, because it's so tried and true! Each time I think of it and take action, I am astronomically less stressed.

In times of uncertainty, I can encourage others to take action, or 'flip their 20,' as Molly Kennedy likes to call paradigm shifts. Retaining our optimism is a powerful tool, especially in a service organization such as Rotary!

Like everyone else, I wish the conference had been longer. Then maybe it wouldn't feel so crammed, and of course, we'd have more time with our new friends.

I'm so glad of the opportunity to learn about leadership and meet other student leaders. Thank you Muskegon Rotary and the MHS Class of 1965 Advised Fund for sponsoring me."

Jasmeen Kaur, Muskegon Catholic Central High School

Note: Jasmeen Kaur, now a Senior at Muskegon Catholic Central, was highly recommended for LLC by Interact Advisor Michael Holt, and after interviewing her, we found some extra funds to be able to sponsor her to the 2022 Rotary Life Leadership Conference. She is in a position to help expand the Rotary Interact Club at Muskegon Catholic this year.



"Dear Muskegon Rotary Club, I am extremely grateful that I was able to join the Rotary Life Leadership Conference at the last minute. The speakers and staff made the place feel like home. Connecting with the

speakers and having them and the staff as someone to rely on felt easy. Parents were not as concerned, as kids told them that the environment was safe, they were having much fun and learning tons.

The conference structure I thought was thorough and well planned out, in a great way, because highschoolers can be tough to handle. The content was amazing. I felt like the content was everything that a teenager needs to hear in this stage of their life right now. It has impacted many of us. I would recommend this conference to anyone; it was truly worth it.

One speaker that impacted me the most was Howard Oesterling, the retired, long-time Director of the Life Leadership Conference, when he read Steve Jobs' Last Essay. Although the essay was short, it had the most impact on me; along with the tone with which he read it. This essay changed me. The prompt alluded to success, love, family, wealth, happiness and the things that matter in life. The prompt gave me realization about myself and how I perceive the world. This essay changed not only me, but made an impact on others as much as it did to me. I knew it when I turned to my left and to my right to see many other students so engaged and tearing up. I overcame much joy that this short essay made such an impact on others. After this poem was read, many of us chatted about it and about Howard's talk. This essay changed me and encouraged me to set my priorities straight.

LLC, without a doubt, boosted my leadership skills. It motivates me to want to be there for others and share my story just as how the speakers did with us at the conference. I would love to help others make a difference and do what's good. Whether it is something compact or something challenging, I am going to want to pass this confidence and leadership to future younger generations who have

the motivation and dedication. Thus, they can undertake what Siqi Chen said, "Life is short. Do stuff that matters."

The only thing I wish that might be improved is the bonding time within the conferees. Serious relationships and friendships were made on this trip. Like volleyball, each night was super fun, but the time limit barely gave us time to have fun. So maybe more free time for the conferees to be stronger and reflect more on what they learned from the conference or what they are learning. Trust me, most of the time the conferees spoke about what the speakers said during their free time. As well imply it. For instance, during volleyball, a major phrase we used was from Molly, 'Flip your 20.'

Thankyou Muskegon Rotary for investing in me!"

Youth Exchange Outbound Chloe Wilson, Reeths-Puffer High School



The Rotary D6290 Life Leadership Conference was definitely one of the most beneficial conferences that I have experienced as a 16-year-old Youth Exchange outbound, soon enroute to Chile.

During my time at LLC, I was able to learn about things I never knew existed. Choosing to change my paradigm ("flipping my twenty", as

speaker Molly Kennedy shared with us), learning that I don't need a corner office to be considered successful in life, and discovering that a bowling ball can magically appear out of thin air (Ben Whiting) were some of the many things that impacted me personally at the conference.

This conference was also special in creating stronger bonds between friends I already knew, and new bonds between people I've never met before. My roommate and I went from speaking in simple introductory conversations to just 3 days later watching Stranger Things together at 10 o'clock while squished into the same twin bed in our dorm. I have met some lifelong friends through this amazing opportunity and I am very grateful for it!

One of the coolest things about the LLC for me was getting to listen to all of the amazing speakers that Rotary was able to bring in for us. Although sometimes I wish that there was a little more activity and more variety throughout our stay, I am appreciative of everything we were able to experience. One thing that really stuck with me was when speaker Howard Oesterling recited three great poems from memory. One of my favorites was called "It Couldn't Be Done" By Edgar Albert Guest, about how you can do anything even if people tell you that you cannot. As a RYE Outbound, this resonated with my thoughts and has stuck by me since.

Rotary has helped me in so many ways and the LLC was just one more to add. I wish that it was longer so that we had more time to meet people and to study the principles of leadership. It truly was an amazing experience that I would totally recommend. Thank you for inviting me and sponsoring me to be in this life changing organization.

Remember To Sign Up for United Way of the Lakeshore Day of Caring Muskegon on September 9!



United Way of the Lakeshore is gearing up for the biggest volunteer day of the year - Day of Caring! For the 29th annual Day of Caring, United Way of the Lakeshore will host hundreds of volunteers to gather for a day of service in our community. We are happy to announce that we are fully back in action and will be working with large teams once again! We will be conducting different projects for veterans including working on veteran homes that are in need of repair, improvement, and landscaping as well as some other projects listed below. The date of this event is:

**September 9th – 8 AM–1 PM
(longer projects are available if needed).**

Please contact [John Noling](mailto:John.Noling@muskegonrotarycc.com) if you are interested in signing up to volunteer for this with the Muskegon Rotary Club.

Please see below for the following projects:

Veteran Homes:

We have 14 veteran homes across the county that need our help with repairs! Many of these veterans live with disabilities that make home repair and upkeep harder to maintain. That is where we come in! We will be helping with exterior repairs, landscaping, and installing

fixtures for our vets to have a well-maintained and safe living environment.

Pioneer Trails:

Pioneer Trails welcomes hundreds of campers with physical and or mental disabilities to an accessible environment to have a true camp experience! The camp is rustic and needs the help of a large group to join them to complete ground maintenance and enhancements before the winter season.

Eighth Street Park:

The Eighth Street Park has been an ongoing project in Muskegon Heights this year. Help us polish off the final touches to making this park a community gem for ages. We need your help repairing the public restrooms, building bleachers for the football fields, lining the football fields, and painting a mural!

Veterans History Project:

Helps us record and tell the story of our local veterans with the Library of Congress. This project is a project that requires several forms to be filled out but is relatively easy to complete. Essentially you walk through the Veterans History Project Instruction Booklet step by step to conduct an interview with your local veteran. You come up with prompts, record the interview, collect copies of any photographs or memorabilia, and have all forms and paperwork filled out. We'll even help you connect with our veterans!

Currently, the Veterans History Project only has 5 servicemen listed from the Lakeshore. None of these soldiers have their pictures available. This is a great opportunity to preserve not only Community History but to preserve the family history of those in our community as well.

Muskegon Rotary Board

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