






“Service Above Self”

Muskegon Rotary in Motion

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>




Jason Piasecki, President
Jane Clingman-Scott, President-Elect
Ginny Sprague, President Nominee
Mark Meyers, Past President
Tim Arter, Treasurer
Kathy Betts, Secretary
Kim Boersma, Club Coordinator

Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916
Next Mtg—January 6, 12:00-1:30pm
Hybrid Style – The Delta & Zoom
ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 1/6 5:15 pm

Mary Anne Gorman, Director
Jeff Lewis, Director
Doug Wood, Director
Asaline Scott, Director
David Ramos, Director
Marty Gerencer, Director
Meredith Smillie, RIM Reporter
Roger Morgenstern, RIM Photographer
Susan Besteman, 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 (1/6/22) — Muskegon YMCA

Bruce Spoelman (not his brother Roger) will give us an inside look at the ever evolving Muskegon YMCA.

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

Joanie Smith

REFLECTORS

Annette Jack Dec 16

January 6 MENU

Jan 6 – TBD

End of December BIRTHDAYS

Tessa Hood	Dec 24
Amelia West	Dec 24
Holly Hughes	Dec 28
Tom Livezey	Dec 28
Craig Wikander	Dec 28

Caring Connections Fund

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

12/16 ReWine 5:15 PM
 12/23 No Meeting
 12/30 No Meeting
 1/6 Muskegon YMCA
 1/6 ReWine 5:15 PM
 1/13 Consumer's Energy



What was the first service project for our club?



In 1916, the Club sponsored ice skating rinks at several schools as a first service project for community youngsters. Unfortunately, that winter was unseasonably warm and the ice rinks did not operate for long.

Muskegon Rotary Board

Jason Piasecki jason@revel.in
 Mark Meyers markm@nortonshores.org
 Jane Clingman-Scott janecs1@comcast.net
 Tim Arter tarter@brickleydelong.com
 Kathy Betts kbetts01@gmail.com
 Linda Juarez juarezl@hccc-health.org
 Mary Anne Gorman ma.gorman@hotmail.com
 Jeff Lewis jeff.lewis@shorelinecity.com
 Ginny Sprague ginny.e.sprague@gmail.com
 JD Wallace, Sr jdw Wallace88@comcast.net
 Doug Wood doug.wood@orchardview.org

Club Directories Available

Club directories are in and available. For pickup at future meetings. If you're joining via Zoom and would like a directory mailed, please email Kim at muskegonrotarycc@gmail.com



Muskegon Rotary's Annual Club Meeting: New officers for Muskegon Rotary were voted on for 2022-2023

President Elect 2022: **Jane Clingman Scott**
 President Nominee 2023: **Ginny Sprague**
 President Nominee: **Tim Arter**
 (approved by vote)

Director: **Marty Sytsema** (approved by vote)
 Director: **Aaron Maikie** (approved by vote)

Treasurer: Delay for nomination due to Tim as the nominee for president; will be voted on at our January 23, 2022 meeting

Student Guests



Welcome Covenant Academy!

Marty Sytsema introduced Deandre Taylor (Math Teacher) brought along students Evan and Ivan Taylor (twins) who love to stay together, music and want to try a shot at a career in music or might become pilots.



VISITORS & GUESTS



-Greg Scott guest of Jane Clingman-Scott



-Kerri Vanderhoff and Kevin Cummings guests of Orville Crain



-Rev. Eileen Stoffan guest of Pastor Jane Mountain

-Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga and Mary Higginbottom-Johnson guests of Joanie Smith on behalf of Kelly Richards

- Patrick Kwiatkowski guest of Meggie Kwiatkowski



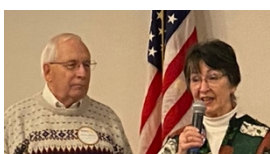
-Debra Hendrickson guest of Ed Hendrickson



-Priscilla Taylor guest of Robert Taylor



-Cathy Powers guest of Bill Loxterman



-John Jack guest of Annette Jack

-Presentors Shawn Lawton and JaiLynn Petrie



New Member: Dr. Todd Rexford

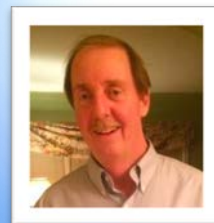
Presented by **Melissa Boughner**

Dr. Todd Rexford is a board-certified and experienced Family Physician who has enjoyed providing personalized quality medical care in our West Michigan community for over 25 years. Dr. Rexford has come to reorient his medical practice toward a more personal and easily accessible model of office health care. He opened an independent Concierge Medical Practice named Lakeshore Concierge Medicine which follows the principle of, "Providing care for my patients in the manner that I would want my doctor to care for me." This practice model allows him to deliver very personal and timely care and give detailed attention to patient needs.

He is a lifetime resident of the beautiful West Michigan community. Born and raised right here in West Michigan, he holds two undergraduate degrees from West Michigan institutions – one from Calvin University (Biology/Chemistry) and the other from Cornerstone University (Psychology/Greek). After completing his medical degree at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, he returned to the lakeshore and has worked in the same stable office setting for over 25 years.

Outside the office, he enjoys time with his wife of over 30 years and his great children. He is significantly involved in his local church and has been teaching a home Bible study for many years. He's also an avid paddle boarder, bicyclist, boater, and enjoys reading. You may have seen him paddle boarding along the Lake Michigan shoreline, or on Mona Lake during those windy days. On the coldest days of winter when the lake conditions won't allow him to get out, you'll probably find him working out on the elliptical.

This Week's Spotlight: Rich Berry



Rich joined Rotary in January of 2013 due to meeting **John Noling** at the Chamber. He was a member for 3 years and got called back to Cumulus Radio in Grand Rapids. He is married to Theresa and they have three grown children. Rich lives in Grand Rapids and commutes to Muskegon every day. He oversees four radio stations that reach over 40,000 people in Muskegon County. Would love to run some public service announcements for Rotary and what we do here in Muskegon. Get a hold of Rich Berry, if your run a local non-profit, to get your community service announcements on Cumulus Radio Stations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Photo Archives

Muskegon Rotary now maintains a digital archive of photos to be used for marketing the club, honoring members and friends, as well as creating video content to share our good works with the world. So share the best photos you take of our activities by sending them to **Mike Vogas**.

Mike.vogas@muskegonrotary.org

He will file them on our Microsoft One Drive so that the communication teams have access to great photos of our activities. Just send the best and the highest resolution you have. If you can, name the photos so they can be well organized.



Meet our District Governor Nominee Designate 2024-2025

Introducing our 2024-2025 Rotary
International District Governor—
Brianna Scott, Rotary Club of Muskegon



Brianna T. Scott was born and raised in Muskegon, Michigan. Brianna attended Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Art's degree in Marketing. Among the honors she received were the COGIC Center Aspiring Law Student Scholarship, winner of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc essay contest and making the Dean's list in 1996. Ms. Scott was chapter president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Executive Board member of Wonders Black Caucus and a member in both the MSU Prelaw and Marketing Associations as an undergraduate student.

Ms. Scott attended Wayne State University Law School where she received her Juris Doctorate in May, 2000. She was active in variety of law school activities and she attained a final year grade point average of 3.57/4.0. She successfully competed in various law school competitions including, but not limited to Moot Court evidence competitions, acting as Article Editor of The Journal of Law in Society, Executive Board member of Moot Court (Director of Outside Competitions), working on the academic committee of the Black Law Student Association, and being an active student member of the Wolverine Bar Association. In addition, Ms. Scott received many scholarships and awards throughout her law school career.

Ms. Scott became an attorney in November 2000, and was immediately recruited and hired as the FIRST African American Assistant Prosecutor in the Muskegon County Prosecutor's office where her initial responsibility was handling district court cases, which included misdemeanors, ordinance violations and other hearings within the district court. However, after much success and proving herself a great trial attorney, she was promptly promoted to Circuit Court, where she handled many cases advocating for victims until she left the Prosecutor's office in 2003.

Following her tenure at the Muskegon County Prosecutor's office, Ms. Scott was hired by the law firm of Williams Hughes Corwin & Sininger,

PC (k/n/a Williams Hughes, PLLC), where she embarked on the journey of a different practice of law; namely the handling of cases for municipalities, civil cases for the county, family law, corporate law, real estate and social security disability matters. As part of her practice at Williams Hughes Corwin & Sininger, PC, she was also awarded a public defender contract handling one of the abuse and neglect dockets in Muskegon County. Ms. Scott remained an associate at Williams Hughes Corwin & Sininger, PC, until 2005.

In 2005 she decided that after five years of significant experience handling all types of cases, that she wanted to become an entrepreneur and start her own law practice. Becoming a business owner, in fact the first minority (African American and female) law firm in Muskegon County was exciting, challenging, and very rewarding. Her law firm has grown significantly over the years and she now employs a full time staff of five (5).

In 2018, Ms. Scott was elected to an 8 year term on the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. A testament to the high regard placed on Ms. Scott for her professional accomplishments, ethical standards and peer recognition, Ms. Scott was recently named a 2019 Athena of the Lakeshore Award Recipient and 2021 Greater Muskegon Woman's Club Woman of Accomplishment. In 2014, she became the FIRST person of color to serve as President of the prestigious Muskegon Rotary Club. Currently, Ms. Scott serves as President of the Muskegon Heights Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. As well, she serves on the Boards for Access Health, Boys & Girl's Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore, Panel One of the Michigan Attorney Disciplinary Commission (County of Muskegon); and is also a member of the Muskegon Rescue Mission's Personnel Committee. Ms. Scott is also the Chair of the Muskegon Rotary Club's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Retention Committee and serves as the Co-Chair for the Life Leadership Committee and the Community Service Council. In the past she has served on the following boards: United Way of the Lakeshore, Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce and Family Services Center Workforce Development Center. Additionally, she serves as Legal Counsel for the International Churches of God In Christ, which is the largest African American church in the world. She is also one of the only attorneys in West Michigan to be dually licensed to practice law in the state of New York. However, her proudest accomplishment is being the parent of her son.

Potential New Members:



Please welcome potential new member Marjorie Jones, retired PE Teacher, sponsored by **Marcia Hovey-Wright**. Marjorie has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board and is awaiting Induction.

Please welcome potential new member Lisa Stafford, WorkWise Strategic Business, Partner, sponsored by **Jim Fisher**. Lisa has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board and is awaiting Induction.

Please welcome potential new member Sandra Gaddy, Women's Resource Center, sponsored by **Asaline Scott**. Sandra has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board and is awaiting Induction.



Save Your Pop Cans for Interact



Our five interact clubs have appreciated the \$5000 that was spread over the last two years and would continue to appreciate the continued support. If you have any that you would like to donate, contact **John Noling** at johnnoling65@gmail.com.

Dues Increase

Due to this year's loss on budget from the COVID-19 Pandemic and not being able to host fundraising events, the Board voted on a dues increase for the first time in the past 10 years. The board approved the new dues rate of \$153.50 (quarterly) for the cost of inflation. This is an approximate 7% increase.



Interact Insider

Local Rotary Interact clubs continue to provide Service Above Self and hope for our community in this Holiday Season. We are all blessed to have them working with us!

Mona Shores

- Adopted a Family for Christmas gifts
- Helped raise over \$640 so far with our club to End Polio forever

North Muskegon

- Over 7,000 food items for MAP donated
- Winter clothing drive in progress for MAP and EWP
- Adopted three families with Christmas gifts with NM Social Workers

Orchard View

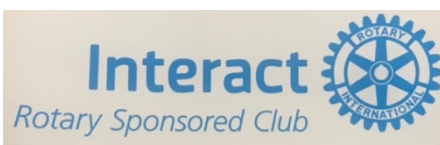
- Adopted a family for Christmas gifts
- Christmas Dance volunteering

Oakridge

- Over 5,000 food items collected for Restock the Pantry Event (Fellowship Reformed Church and Musk Twp)
- Planting white pine trees at Twin Lake County Park

Reeths Puffer

- Lap-quilt project in progress for veterans
- Planting white pines at Twin Lake County Park



RIM Reporting Team

Susan Besteman susan@bestemanproperties.com
 Chip Chipman codychipman@gmail.com
 Jackie Farrar farrarjackie@yahoo.com
 Susan Holkeboer sholkebo1905@aol.com
 Bill Johanson bill.johanson@yahoo.com
 Kathy Moore MooreKa@co.muskegon.mi.us
 Roger Morgenstern rogmorgen@gmail.com
 Meredith Smillie msmillie@bethany.org
 Lori Weiler lori.weiler@summitlawncare.net

Interactors Plant Trees

Rotary Interactors from Reeths Puffer and Oakridge High Schools

planted 10 White Pine trees this past Saturday to add variety to and beautify Twin Lake County Park. A nice Christmas present for the Park! More tree planting projects are in the works for Spring. Pictured above are **Braydan Davis** and **Jacklyn Wei** from Oakridge. Pictured below are **Lauren Douglas** from RP and **Abby Menendorp** from Oakridge.



Seaway Run



It's not too early to sign up for the 2022 Mercy Health Seaway Run. This year's race will be on Saturday, June 25, 2022. Registration opened last week.

Early bird pricing applies: Half Marathon (\$65), 10K Run (\$50), 5K Run (\$35) and Community Walk (\$15).

Go to the race website at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Muskegon/MercyHealthSeawayRun> to sign up today.



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:



Mona Shores Singing Christmas Tree Organizers

Speakers: Shawn Lawton

& JaiLynn Petrie

RIM Reporter: **Meredith Smillie**



Shawn is in his 32nd year teaching music, including 29 years at Mona Shores High School. He has received numerous awards in teaching and ensemble. JaiLynn is in her 7th year as an accompanist for the singing Christmas tree and the Mona Shores choirs.

Mona Shores has the world's tallest singing Christmas tree. Dave Anderson had heard of singing Christmas trees and was sitting at St. Francis de Sale and felt it was absolutely perfect to establish a singing Christmas tree. Dave asked Skip Frizzel to start a Singing Christmas tree in 1979. Skip agreed due to the ability of the St. Francis de Sale to accommodate a large Christmas tree; although the tree moved to the Frauenthal Center in



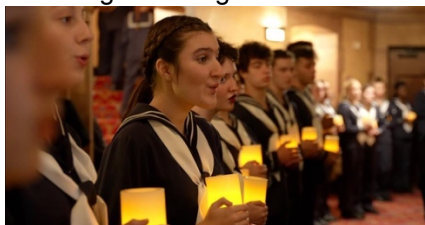
2006. The initial cost for the tree was \$30,000 and was constructed by Millard Heath of Denton, Texas. Mona Shores choir travelled all over the world and used this as a fundraiser. In 2015, the entire Christmas tree needed to be replaced and Mona Shores purchased the new tree. This year is the 36th season for the tree and has been seen by 8,000 people this year. This is the most popular event at the Frauenthal Center and often tickets sell out within minutes of going online for purchase.



JaiLynn noted that this phenomenon is fueled by the parent volunteers. Six years in a row, The National Association of Music has noted that Mona Shores one of the best music education programs in the country. The only paid positions are lighting and sound design, in addition to a video production company for live streaming of the event (due to the COVID pandemic). There are early 200 adult volunteers and 50 student volunteers who make this event happen each year. Local Scouts come in and remove the first seven rows of seats for the tree to be assembled. JaiLynn notes that 13 separate committees with their own chair, which is overseen by 3 project chairs work year round on the Singing Christmas Tree. Committees include public relations, advertising, play bill design, merchandise, construction and decoration, ushers, candles, overlays, tree monkeys, nurses, student supervision and food. Tree monkeys are dozens of parents that are harnessed and strapped into the tree and are in the back of the tree with first aid kits and are able to assist the kids to help them feel safe and to get down if they do not feel well.



What makes the tree so special? It is all about the music and kids. The tree is five stories high (67 feet tall) and absolutely stunning. There are over 200 student performers, and the tree is full of singers from top to bottom. The music is carefully curated and there is an eclectic selection of holiday related music; including acapella, gospel, jazz, pop, African, classical, Hannukah, secular, sacred and often accompanied by the 50 piece Mona Shores orchestra. Shawn spends an entire year planning the music for the Singing Christmas Tree. All students do the candlelight processional singing a gospel song, Siyahamba- "We are Marching in the Light of God".



The other thing that is unique about the Singing Christmas Tree is the joy, passion, and love that the kids singing displayed by the students year after year. Shawn calls it the Mona Shores singing magic. There are only two rehearsals where all four choirs are present together and only one with the orchestra. It is a very busy schedule. It is a long standing tradition at Mona Shores and becoming a generational experience, and there is even an alumni choir.

Shawn also shared how they choose the angel. The student must be a senior. They are the kid that is not the lead in the play, may have struggles in their life, is a leader, not always the most popular student, but their spirit and leadership shines through them; Shawn and JaiLynn sit down and determine who should be the angel.



The Singing Christmas Tree has hit worldwide popularity, including being noted by the Associated Press, USA Today, Huffington Post, NPR, BBC News, Good Morning America, Travel Channel and TLC Story features. It is a huge and positive representation of Muskegon and the students at Mona Shores. Shawn and JaiLynn are very proud of the student, volunteers and committee members that make the Singing Christmas Tree possible.



Just in case you missed the live, livestream, or just want to view it again, here is access to our 2021 MSHS Singing Christmas Tree program, available here Dec. 18-Jan. 8 (and on the Muskegon Channel for Roku and Amazon Fire TV devices) thanks to the [MuskegonChannel.com!](https://muskegonchannel.com/special)

<https://muskegonchannel.com/special>

HACKLEY & HUME HISTORIC SITE

HOLIDAY TOURS

NOVEMBER
27 (KICK-OFF EVENT) 6-28 | 2-7 PM

DECEMBER
4, 11, 18, 28, & 29 | 2-7 PM

TICKETS
ADULTS \$15
SENIORS (65+) \$12
KIDS (3-12) \$5

Experience the Hackley and Hume Houses this holiday season! Join us for our kick-off on Saturday, November 27 from 2-7 pm for a night of ornament decorating, cookies, and hot chocolate in the courtyard of the houses.

Additional dates are walk-through tours where visitors can experience the houses decorated for the holidays.

Hackley & Hume Historic Site
of the Lakeshore Museum Center

MUSEUM ADMISSION IS FREE FOR MEMBERS OR REGULAR ADMISSION FOR NON-MEMBERS
484 W. WEBSTER AVE. / MUSKEGON, MI 49440 / (231) 722-7578 / HACKLEYANDHUME.ORG