

The RIM Newsletter

Rotary

InMotion



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

January 23, 2025

Next Meeting (January 30, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Honey Glazed Pork at the DELTA
Program Topic – Muskegon County Bicycling Coalition

What's Coming

- Jan 23 – Youth Exchange Reveal and MCC Rotaract Update
- Jan 30 – Musk Co Bicycling Coalition
- Feb 6 – Harbor Terrace Senior Living

Upcoming Birthdays

- January 30 **Heather Brolick**
- February 1 **Jim Nielsen**
- February 4 **Laura Lorenz**

Caring Connections Fund



[Click this link to donate \\$10 on your birthday](#)

Greeter This Week

Pete DeBoer

Reflector This Week

Lisa Tyler



RIM Reporting this Edition

- Photographer – Mark Alpher
- RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
- RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

1/23/2025 Muskegon Rotary
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Visitors & Guests



Chad Lawie with his son, Hobie



Kristi Pawlak and Craig Pirrotta with Rotary's Current Youth Exchange Students Winwert, Appoline, Cornelius, Laura, and Mitchie



Meredith Smillie with Outbound Youth Exchange Student Skyler Villegas, her dad Caleb Villegas, and mom Becky Makowski



Jamie Sowa with her daughters, Evelyn & Sophia



Ammy Seymour, Dom Bunker and Chauncy Williams introduced Outbound Youth Exchange Student Vicky Correa with her mom Juliana, dad Lucio, and sister Lucia

Muskegon Rotary Board

- Tim Arter, President
- Dave Alexander, President-Elect
- Roger Morgenstern, President Nominee
- Ginny Sprague, Past President
- Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer
- Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary
- Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator
- Directors:
- Aaron Maie Tom Palmer
- Brandon Turnbull Esther Ricco
- Marty Sytsema Lisa Tyler

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

This week's program: MCC Update



Presenter: **Dr. John Selmon**
 Introduced by: **Dave Alexander**
 RIM Reporter: **Meredith Smillie**



Dave Alexander introduced our guest speaker **Dr. John Selmon**. John became president of MCC

in 2022. John has been involved with a number of public colleges on the West side of Michigan.



John provided us with an overview of all the amazing things happening at MCC. He acknowledged the talented staff and professors that inspire our students. Many of the MCC staff members in leadership positions and trustees are connected to Muskegon Rotary.



Muskegon Community College

Mission Muskegon Community College, dedicated to equity and excellence, prepares students, builds communities, and improves lives.

Vision An educated, inclusive community.

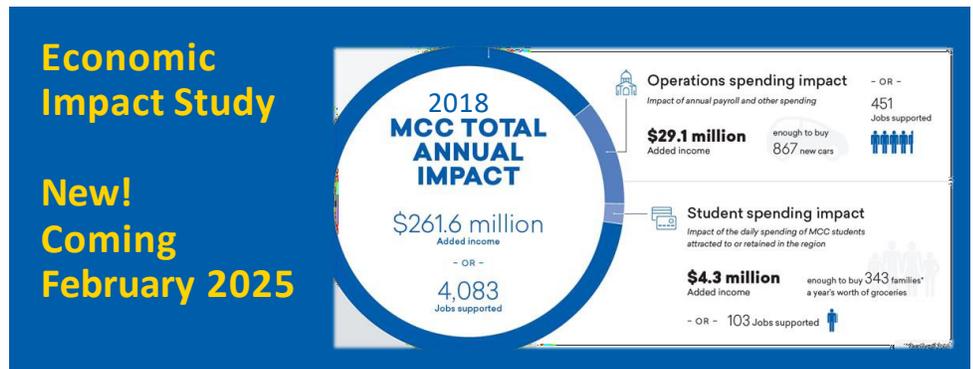
Values Learning, Integrity, Excellence, Collaboration, Kindness

Dr. Selmon shared that in Michigan we have 31 community colleges, 28 public and 3 tribal colleges. MCC has over 400 employees and in 2028 had an economic impact of \$29.1 million on our community via operations

600 students are on the Muskegon Promise.



Many students attend classes online. In addition, MCC offers career counseling, the Jayhawk Hub, navigators/coaches, tutoring, mental health and suicide



spending impact. Dr. Selmon noted that the economic impact study will be updated in February of 2025. MCC's strategic plan surrounds access, equity and excellence with 10 goals supporting this vision.

Dr. Selmon noted that primary funding sources for MCC include state aid (26%), tuition and fees (37%) and local property taxes (29%). There are over 5,100 students that attend MCC with 57% identifying as female and 43% as male, 70% of students are white.

prevention services, and clubs and organizations. There are several partnerships: four-year colleges and universities, K-12 schools, employers, and community agencies and organizations. MCC offers apprenticeships, internships, customized training and sponsoring of students with employers. MCC is a pipeline to four-year institutions such as Baker College, Ferris State University, Western Michigan University, Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, with Grand Valley being the largest partner.

Jayhawk Hub Community Partners



The Jayhawk Hub community partners assist and partner with MCC to support students

In 2026, MCC will be 100 years old. The board and MCC are working hard to prepare for this huge celebration. There will be a new logo and rebrand coming in 2025. There is a new provost search that is happening, new facility updates, new programs at MCC (BSN level nurses needed at Trinity) in partnership with Grand Valley. Joining forces with the Maritime University in Traverse City to train maritime engineers. Dr. Selmon noted that many of the school's facilities need an upgrade. The facilities plan requires nearly \$50 millions in upgrades to ensure buildings are ADA compliant, addressing an aging HVAC system and improve infrastructure for students, staff and guests.

Dr. Selmon also shared that MCC has a keen and continued focus on adult learners (students age 25+) due to high school populations

declining by 10% over the past decade and that 2.5 million adults do not have post-secondary skills and nearly 350,000 vacancies in Michigan. Dr. Selmon notes that MCC is committed to a 3.0 system: allowing students to have access (1.0), completion of studies (2.0) and post college success in their transfer to four-year schools and career advancement post degree (3.0). He noted that MCC is driven to see students succeed beyond the walls of MCC.



Dr. Selmon closed with a call-to-action. He asked us to share our MCC stories, share social media posts, mentor a student, offer an

internship or attend An Evening with MCC. The push is to be a world class community college and Dr. Selmon noted that it takes all of us bragging about how great an institution we have in Muskegon Community College.

Rotary In Action Muskegon Rotarian and RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore



Kathy is a reporter for our weekly newsletter, the RIM, short for Rotary In Motion. She is a member of a stalwart crew creating a record of our meetings, guests, achievements and events. She credits RIM founder, Bill Johanson, with beginning this important documentation of effort.

See the full video—[Click Here](#)

RIM Reporting Team

- Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar
- Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague
- Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern
- Contributors: John Noling, Mike Vogas, & Doug Wood

ReWine meetings are every 1st & 3rd Thursday each month at 5:15pm at **Unruly Brewing**

OUTBOUND ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE REVEALS

Skylar Villegas will be heading to a country where lunch tends to be the main meal of the day, has the largest Japanese community outside of Japan, and where young women have a formal ball on their 15th birthday—Brazil!



Elliot Weinert will be heading to a country that has one of the cleanest environments in the world (known for its lakes and forests), where nearly every household has a sauna, and is of the best places to view the Northern Lights—Finland!



Vicky Correa will be going to the country known as the “land of smiles, has never been colonized by Europeans and means “land of the free,” and is home to the world’s largest solid gold Buddha—Thailand!

Ziyah Ochoa is heading to a country where friends greet each other with an embrace and a kiss on each cheek, is the 5th largest country in the world (bigger than the U.S.), and where an invitation for dinner means bringing a gift and arriving 30 minutes late—Brazil!

rotary
youth
exchange



Rotary Youth Exchange committee raised over \$2,000 via the online auction. Each RYE outbound student was awarded a \$500 scholarship to support their travel abroad via Rotary. A huge thank you to **Craig Pirota** for his tireless efforts.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS



2014, Craig's yearning for new horizons led him to an unlikely discovery—a \$5,000 house in Muskegon. This purchase was the start of his journey. Craig invested in Muskegon's future, acquiring properties, including Blue House Manor.

In 2020, Craig launched a Facebook series "Coffee with Craig," and many other social media shows. He is eager to expand his efforts in fostering community growth, innovation, and diversity. Craig is sponsored by **Susan Crain**.

Craig Person



Craig's journey is a testament to resilience, creativity, and a profound connection to community. Craig was born in San Jose, California, the future heart of Silicon Valley where innovation and culture thrived. Craig's stepfather, an electrical engineer, ignited his passion for technology by introducing him to the marvel of personal computing in 1982. Armed with curiosity and an IBM desktop, Craig self-taught programming in BASIC, laying the foundation for a future brimming with technological achievements. Life, however, wasn't always smooth. Craig faced challenges, including homelessness, yet he never ceased dreaming. He transitioned from fast food jobs to a breakthrough contract at IBM, eventually mastering programming and earning recognition for his ingenuity.

Over 19 years, Craig was the developer of Enterprise Resource Planning software. Later, as a Global Risk & Compliance Manager, he navigated financial and IT audits. In

Jonathan Scouten



Born and raised in Muskegon, MI, Jonathan Scouten grew up in Whitehall and graduated from high school there in 2008. He attended Muskegon Community College before interning at Life Change Church in Muskegon, where he served as Ministry Director for over a decade. Jonathan later earned his Associate's Degree from Grace College in Winona Lake, IN.

For the past three years, Jonathan has been with Muskegon Rescue Mission, initially as the Marketing and Events Officer and now as the Development Manager. In his role, he helps oversee the Development Department, which works to provide critical funding for Muskegon Rescue Mission's efforts to fight hunger and homelessness in West Michigan. Last year, Muskegon

Rescue Mission expanded its focus beyond providing meals and shelter to actively addressing the cycle of generational poverty here in Muskegon. This shift included the opening of a Community Resource Center and the Bright Futures Daycare and Preschool, offering vital resources and support to help individuals and families build brighter futures. The department actively collaborates with community members, partners, donors, as well as area businesses and churches. Jonathan has also successfully organized various mission events, including the ForeShore Adventure Run, a 5K obstacle course held annually at Pere Marquette Beach. This spring marks the 10th anniversary of the event, with over 1,000 participants expected to help support meals, shelter and vital services for those in need.

Jonathan has been married to his wife, Molly, for over eight years. Molly, a Montague native, is an RN at Trinity Health Muskegon, recently transitioning to postpartum care in the Labor and Delivery unit. Together, they have three children—Addy (6), Ezra (4), and Eden (2)—and a German Shorthaired Pointer named Sadie. The family enjoys spending summers camping along the shores of Lake Michigan and actively serves at Evanston Avenue Church in Muskegon.

Jonathan and his family are deeply passionate about their community and are committed to seeing Muskegon grow and flourish. He is excited to join Rotary and collaborate with others who share a heart for making a positive impact locally and globally. Jonathan is sponsored by **Bill Erickson**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donations Requested!

Your support toward the upcoming Honduras and El Salvador trips is greatly appreciated! Your pop cans are still welcome and contact **John Noling** if you have some to donate. Scan the below QR Code or click this link to donate: [CLICK HERE TO DONATE \\$\\$](#)



Goodbye 2024 – A Muskegon Rotary Tribute to Our Efforts in 2024



[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video **Mike Vogas** created to give a two-minute salute to Muskegon Rotary efforts in 2024!

Pours for Community Planning Began



Pours 2025 planning has begun. The happy hours will be in the last half of April and early May. Stay tuned!



Nancy McCarthy, on behalf of our Rotary Club's Peacebuilders Committee, invited everyone to attend an upcoming Braver Angels Red Blue workshop on March 21st at 9am-noon called Bridging the Political Divide. Many attended the introduction course last year and this workshop will move forward to the next step with helping conservatives and liberals rebuild trust and engaging in productive conversation. Contact Nancy to sign up.



Rotary Club Corporate Partnership w/ Neal Fitness Center (Boys & Girls Club)



You heard it here first but will hear more details in person if you join the Rotary meeting on the 30th.

A Corporate Partner Agreement between Muskegon Rotary Club and The Neal Fitness Center at the Boys and Girls Club is in the works! Here are the details:

Neal Fitness Center Corporate Partnership Plan: FitPERK

The FitPerk benefit is a discounted \$50/month membership (usually \$60) and includes discounts for facility rentals at The Clubhouse (The Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore and the Neal Fitness Center)

Start Date: Fri. Jan. 24, 2025

Partnership Launch

Promotion: Initiation Fee Waived through Sun. Feb. 16th

The initiation fee (\$50) is waived for each new Rotary member and for each Family Add-on membership during this period.

What to bring: Please ask members to show the email they will have received from Rotary announcing this opportunity at the member services desk when they come in to sign up.

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E3: Rachel Gorman - Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce



Get ready to meet Rachel Gorman, the new President of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce!

In this episode of Muskegon Rising, Rachel shares her vision for strengthening our local economy, supporting businesses, and fostering a thriving community. Discover the exciting initiatives underway and how you can get involved in shaping Muskegon's future.

Don't miss this insightful conversation with a dynamic leader.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16477658-rachel-gorman-muskegon-lakeshore-chamber-of-commerce>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Rotary Members - We need your help to grow our social media pages!



We have been sharing some great content on Facebook and Instagram and we want to make sure that current Rotarians, as well as future club members, are seeing it! We could use your help in growing our audience! Please follow the simple steps below by **FEB 8** and let's see how many friends we can add to our pages!

Facebook:

- Go to the Rotary Facebook page by clicking [HERE](#).
- Click on the "Like" button if you have not already done so. Should say "Liked" when done.
- Then, click on the three dots next to the "message" button (on your phone) OR the menu items (on your computer).
- Once you click on the three dots, a new menu comes up. Click "Invite Friends."
- Then, you can "select all" at the top of the menu OR choose specific friends to invite by checking the box after the individual's name.
- Once friends have been selected, click "Send Invites" and you are done! :)

Instagram:

- Go to the Rotary Instagram page by clicking [HERE](#).
- Click on "Follow" should say "Following" when done.
- Then feel free to share the page link with your IG friends and ask them to follow as well!



Rotary Peace Fellowship Program – Looking for Candidates

You can promote peace! The “Magic of Rotary” helps provide the fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowship program. The program covers tuition and living expenses, increases the capacity of dedicated peace builders from communities around the world to prevent and resolve conflict by offering academic training, field experience, and professional networking. Fellows choose between a 15–24-month Master’s degree program or a shorter Professional Development Certificate. Our District needs help identifying individuals in our communities that would make great Rotary Peace Fellowship candidates. Contact **Jackie Bertsch** (District 6290 Peace Fellowship Chair) at jbertsch@charter.net if you may know someone who could benefit from this opportunity. To learn more about this program, [click here](#).

Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers.