




“Service Above Self”

Muskegon Rotary in Motion

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>





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Muskegon Rotary Club

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

Next Mtg—July 28, 2022, 12:00-1:30pm

The Lake House - Hybrid

ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 8/4/22 5:15 pm

John Noling's House



Jeff Lewis, Director
 Marty Sytsema, Director
 Asaline Scott, Director
 David Ramos, Director
 Marty Gerencer, Director
 Chip Chipman, 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 (7/28/22) — Samaritas Senior Apartments

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

Bill Erickson

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Joan Schmitt July 31

Jane Johnson Aug 1

Rita Caviness Aug 3

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

7/28 Samaritas Senior Apartments

The full video is available from the July 21 meeting [here](#).



Drew Maus and Adam Birchmeier, guests of Tom Palmer



Channe Hicks, guest of Myra Dutton



Will Wilson, guest of Susan Crain



Ron Suszek, guest of Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

VISITORS & GUESTS



Eddie Alexander, guest of Emily Morgenstern



Raj Grewel, guest of Darlene Collet



Tammy Smith, guest of Lisa Metzendorf

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

Disability Network

Speakers – Brad Hastings and Teri Langley

RIM Reporter: Chip Chipman



Rotary had the great pleasure of hosting two speakers this Thursday from the Disability Network West Michigan: Brad Hastings and Teri Langley. Teri Langley is the Community Relations Director. Teri started her position with Disability Network of Michigan in July of 2021. Prior to that, she had spent over 20 years working with lawmakers in both the Michigan House and Senate to educate them on mental health services and also helped advance notable policy decisions including Medicaid expansion and the Foreclosure Prevention Act. Teri earned her degree from Michigan State University in Political Science Pre-Law. She has three adult children, and lives in Lansing with her husband and their dog.

Brad Hastings is also a graduate of Michigan State University where he has his degree in Anthropology and a minor in Philosophy. Brad was hired by the Disability Network West Michigan in 2018, and is currently the Advocacy and ADA Coordinator. In this role, he “has been working with disability advocates, business leaders, and local governments to improve accessibility, provide technical assistance, and community education on disability related topics.” Prior to working with Disability Network West Michigan, Brad worked for five years as a Community Food Programs Manager at True North Community Services

where he coordinated food programs for low-income individuals and families. Brad serves as a co-chairperson for the ADA Michigan Committee and is a board member for the Muskegon Downtown Development Authority.

The larger statewide Disability Network at its core represents the voices of 15 Centers for Independent Living, there “the focus is on leadership development, relationship building, effective communication, and mobilizing around issues that will have the greatest impact on delivering high-quality independent living services to people with disabilities.”

At the legislature, they are currently working with lawmakers to update the reserved parking placards, to the newer “Go Logo” which creates a more accurate, inclusive and empowering representation of those with disabilities who use them.



The Disability Network West Michigan was created by and serves people with disabilities in Muskegon, Oceana, Lake, Mason, and Newaygo counties, while coordinating with the large state wide network. To ensure that their organization is always looking out for the best interests of those with disabilities, it is a requirement that at least 51% of the staff and 51% of the board are people who live with a disability. Currently, the representation on both is around 70%. The mission of the Disability Network is to “advocate, educate, empower, and provide resources for persons with disabilities.” In practice, what this means is trying to increase community inclusion for people with disabilities.

There are two important avenues for achieving this goal. The first is to work with individuals in the community who live with disabilities and help them achieve their independent living goals. Examples of this could be anything from learning how to use the public transportation system to techniques to better manage money. The second is to work within our community to remove any barriers to inclusion.

As far as specific programming, the Disability Network, offers community education on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA), accessibility reviews, and technical support for local businesses regarding the ADA. There are also programs to help train staff to interact respectfully with people with disabilities, help people with disabilities transition out of school, develop skills for employment, and peer support groups.

Many local governments, groups, businesses, and people in West Michigan have already taken advantage of the Disability Network and the expertise they have to offer. The City of Muskegon, the City of Whitehall, The Northtown 794 Complex, and others have had an accessibility review done on their properties, to find areas where they may have non-compliance issues with the ADA, or other ways the building can be optimized to be more inclusive to people with disabilities. On the training side of things, businesses such as Pioneer Resources, GHSP, and Meijer, have all opted in, and received training for some of their staff.

Recently, the Disability Network West Michigan has teamed up with United Way, which has launched the 21 Day Disability Equity Challenge. For those who sign up, they will receive an email each day on a different disability related topic to help better educate us all on ways we can be more inclusive through our language and other practical ways.



RIM Reporter **Meredith Smillie** recently spotted the new logo displayed on the Rotary Park sign.

On August 26, 2022, the Disability Network West Michigan will be hosting the Parties in the Park, and they are looking for volunteers. If you are available, please contact Brad directly at bradh@disabilitynetworkwm.org.

Making A Difference

Introduced today by **Mary Anne Gorman**, this new weekly feature first identifies the seven Rotary causes:

- Promoting peace
- Fighting disease
- Providing clean water
- Supporting mothers and children
- Supporting education
- Growing local economies
- Protecting the environment

These 2-minute videos were created to educate us about causes and the work that's being done by other individuals, groups, and organizations in our community.

These are the folks who can help amplify the work that's being done and with whom we can potentially partner.

This week's project, "The Steelhead Project," highlights the Rotary cause of **Protecting the Environment**.

The Lakeshore Art Festival partnered with The City of Muskegon, Chamber

of Commerce, and Padnos Recycling and came up with the idea of doing a metal art sculpture contest made all out of scraps.



Artist Sherri Lee Balaskovitz

Sherri Balaskovitz wanted to do something that wasn't already here, and not compete with existing works. She considered Muskegon's water and decided on a Steelhead because of the metal component in the name.



Sherri attended MCC and studied art and Baker College for graphic design. She also works at Braeburn Wealth Management as Director of Marketing. Her piece is on display at the Frauenthal outside under the marquee.

A Big Thank You

submitted by Jacinda Patrick

Dear Muskegon Rotary and Muskegon Yacht Club,

We want to thank you Muskegon Rotary and friends of Rotary for your donation of cans! Your donations help us support the Power Up Gambia project (clean water and electricity for rural health clinics) and also helps us fund one of our current local projects

this year of bringing Molly Kennedy, an amazing motivational speaker, to come and work with our school!



\$441.80 was raised to restart Rotary Interact Club at North Muskegon

If you didn't know already, we are basically restarting our North Muskegon High School Interact Club with all new officers, a new advisor, and a new principal this school year. Quite a challenge! The majority of our last club were seniors, so it's going to be a whole new group this year! So we are excited for that, and believe it's going to be a great year for our Rotary Interact Club at North Muskegon High School. Thanks again for your support!

Sincerely,

Allison Friesner, Riley McEvoy, Ricardo Lopez, Ben Carpenter, Jacinda Patrick
North Muskegon Rotary interact Club

ReWine Update

ReWine met July 21 at the Salty Pecker in Norton Shores. Highlights included:

- A great discussion about improving literacy and empathy reading
- Upcoming events:
- July 28, 2022, Lakeshore Innovator of the Year Awards Reception at the Muskegon Innovation Hub, 5-7 pm
- August 4, 2022: ReWine at John Noling's house, 2332 View Lane, North Muskegon
- August 20, 2022: Fish boil at the Montague Bandshell

Interact Insider

Life Leadership Conference Reports



Raj Grewal

"I was lucky enough to have the opportunity as a Senior to participate in the Rotary Life Leadership Conference. It sounded appealing, but I really didn't know what to expect. Furthermore, I didn't know how much of an impact it would have on me. All these questions were answered rather quickly when I saw the enthusiasm within students and staff. The agenda let me know how everything would work in an organized fashion and the staff was very helpful throughout the experience.

The speakers were the highlight of my experience, as was the case for most people. They were all different in their endeavors, but had common themes in overcoming certain circumstances. The different messages were motivating, intriguing, and impactful. It didn't feel like a boring assembly at school, as some may suggest, but rather like the person is talking directly to you and knows your own hardships. The inclusive environment was evident in the nightly volleyball matches, group lunches, and Family Time.

The application to my life from LLC was automatic and became habitual quickly. I still think of the quotes and stories I heard from that very weekend. I feel motivated to make the same impact I felt throughout the whole conference. I would recommend this experience to everyone I know and even the people I don't know. I still talk with the friends I made during my stay there and relationships were built that should last a long time. Thank you to everyone who made this experience possible in the best way possible!"

--Raj Grewal

Editor's Note: Raj Grewal was the only graduating senior out of the 22 conferees we selected this year. Raj attended Calvary Christian Schools. He was chosen partly on the basis of the terrific Law Day speech he delivered and a later interview conducted by Joanie Smith and John Noling. Raj will be attending the University of Michigan this fall, where we hope he will join the UM Rotaract Club and be a leader at U of M.



Kylee Foster, Muskegon High School

"I went to the Life Leadership Conference (LLC) and expected it to be like any other conference: mundane. I was pleasantly surprised when each motivational speaker presented themselves in such a lively and welcoming manner. I met many fellow

Rotary Interactors and found common ground on a variety of subjects.

The array of activities and icebreakers brought to us by our LLC families offered the opportunity to build many connections. My highlight from the conference was when the youth exchange students talked about their experiences with getting prepared to study abroad. This is something that I'd like to do, so hearing it from a different perspective was quite informational.

I learned quite a bit from everyone, but one thing I had noticed was the sheer amount of high school Rotary Interactors just within Michigan!

I learned the importance of community as well as communication. Our group was able to find a wide assortment of networking opportunities that may be quite important for the future of our Muskegon High School Rotary Interact club!

As far as what I plan to do with what I have learned to make a positive difference this year, I'd like to introduce speaker Molly Kennedy's "Flip Your 20" (shifting your paradigm on things when needed to overcome obstacles) concept to my club in order for us to positively build upon our viewpoints.

LLC has truly brought upon such a wide range of change and growth opportunities; we don't know where to begin. The future is bright! Thank you LLC, Muskegon Rotary, and the MHS Class of 1965 Advised Fund for allowing me this opportunity."

--Kylee Foster



In Other News...

Muskegon City Public Art Initiative Project Director **Judy Hayner** was featured on WOODTV on July 21. The story highlighted both the mural located on the exterior wall of Trinity Health Arena, "What Defines Muskegon," and also the area's newest piece, "One Drop."



"One Drop" is a 27-foot sculpture created out of tinted prismatic steel by Marc Moulton. It commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Women's Division Chamber of Commerce and can be seen on the plaza between Shoreline Drive and the VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center.

Watch the full interview with Judy Hayner [here](#):

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calling all Committee Chairs

Be on the lookout in your email for a member engagement survey to connect with council chairs and committee chairs to get your status, who is on your committee, what leadership looks like, and where do you need help. Do you need volunteers for upcoming events? This is your opportunity to let us know. Give us the details and we'll announce it at meetings and publish it in RIM.

Youth Exchange Update

Joanie Smith announced that the Youth Exchange hasn't happened in the last few years COVID. It's back—this year we will have two inbounds and two outbounds, Emma from Austria and Gisin from Thailand will be here and their plane arrives in Grand Rapids on August 13, at 5:45 pm. It would be great to have a few Rotarians to welcome them. We'll have the flags from their countries and a lot of surprises.

Party in the Park Mentors

Brandon Turnbull is looking for experienced Party in the Park volunteers to help with the August 19 event. Reach out to Brandon if you can help provide guidance and experience for new volunteers.

Muskegon Rotary Board

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Have you seen this invasive species?

Contributed by Bill Johanson

The Muskegon Conservation District is working to identify locations where Chinese Yam and Japanese Stiltgrass are found. We are hoping to survey and treat these sites throughout the months of July and August.



Chinese yam (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*). Chinese yam has slender vines that spiral counterclockwise. It readily invades disturbed habitats with light shade, especially forest edges. It can spread into the more shaded interior of high-quality forest in which it poses a serious threat to Michigan forests and economy.



Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). This annual grass is very adaptable and tolerates varying levels of soil acidity and moisture but prefers forested floodplains. Stiltgrass produces 100-1,000 seeds per plant and can spread rapidly by water flow, wildlife, foot and vehicular traffic. Deer will browse native plants and avoid stiltgrass, which allows for additional spreading.

Please report sightings to the Muskegon Conservation District. (231) 828-5097

For more information, click [here](#).