

"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—April 7, 2022, 12:00-1:30pm
Hybrid Style – The Delta & Zoom
ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 4/7 5:15 pm
Unruly Brewing Company

Mary Anne Gorman, Director
Jeff Lewis, Director
Doug Wood, Director
Asaline Scott, Director
David Ramos, Director
Marty Gerencer, Director
Roger Morgenstern, 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 (4/7/22) — Muskegon Clippers

Our very own Tim Lipan will give us an update about the Muskegon Clippers collegiate baseball team.

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

Dan Hartmann

REFLECTORS

Rabbi Alan Alpert Mar 31
Jane Clingman-Scott Apr 7
Meredith Smillie Apr 14
Open Apr 21

THIS WEEK'S MENU

Pasta buffet, salad, & cookies

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Jamie Hekker Apr 8
J Griffith Apr 10
Eric Seifert Apr 11
Erin Kuhn Apr 13

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

3/31 Electric Vehicles
4/7 Muskegon Clippers
4/7 **ReWine 5:15 PM**
Unruly Brewing Company
4/14 Muskegon Rescue Mission

March 31, 2022
Muskegon Rotary Club
Meeting Video
[Click Here](#)

VISITORS & GUESTS



Guests of **Mike Vogas** -- Erik (Mike's son from Tokyo) and Lorie (Mike's wife) Vogas



Guest of **President Jason Piasecki** -- Jim Benison (Chief Appellate Attorney in Kent County running for Court of Appeals in West Michigan)



Guests of **Claire Root-Benson** -- Kendra Robinson (Attorney who turned in her application for Rotary) and Muskegon High School Interact student guests -- Adelyn Witmer and Kylee Foster

Student Guests



Welcome West Michigan Christian! Introduced by **Marty Sytsema**, High School Counselor Josh Scholma presented Zoe Vanderstelt and Owen Varnado. Zoe plans to attend Rollins College in Florida to major in Biology and minor in Neuroscience and Spanish. Owen plans to attend Calvin University to play basketball and study Economics.

Muskegon Rotary Board

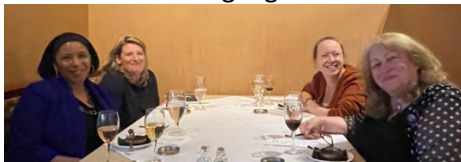
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grape Escape Preview- a Wonderful Success



"Thank you, Rotarians and guests!" from **Meredith Smillie**. Our inaugural Grape Escape Preview fundraiser, held at Courses on Thursday, March 24, 2022 was a huge success. We raised \$3,900 for Muskegon Rotary and dined on the superb feast prepared by the staff and students at the Culinary Institute. It was a fabulous night of great food, fantastic wine and friendship. Special thanks go out to Baker President **Aaron Maik** and Program Director Jamie Sowa at the CIM for an amazing night.



Invocations/Reflectors

If you are interested in giving an invocation/reflection please contact Alan Alpert at fivea@me.com. We can also pre-record your invocation/reflection for those who are attending on Zoom.

Rotary Swag

If you have been waiting for more Rotary swag, **Merica Dobry** has the link through Trophy House below.

<https://trophyhousebrands.chipply.com/rotary/>

This Rotary Apparel store is open to accept orders until April 30. All orders placed between now and April 30 will be held and produced after the store closes. (If I order items this afternoon, I would not receive them until mid-May). Members will have the option to have their apparel shipped directly to them or to pick it up at a Rotary club meeting mid-May.

Community Leaders Transitioning

President Jason Piasecki recognized two community leaders transitioning from jobs in the public: **Frank Peterson** and **Jeff Lewis**.

Frank Peterson will resign from his position as Muskegon City Manager



on Friday to begin a position as an operating partner with a development firm, WheelFish Group, on April 2. For more information: [click here](#)

Rotary Board Member Jeff Lewis is retiring on April 30th from a 44-year



career in law enforcement and a 10-year run as public safety director for the City of Muskegon. For more information: [click here](#)

Instead of fining them (like our club used to do when someone appeared in the news), our club would like to thank you for your service to the community!



Rotary International Ukraine Refugee Aid

Rotary in Ukraine before invasion:
60 Rotary Clubs with 1,100 Members
25 Rotaract Clubs with 300 Members
11 Interact Clubs

Past President **Mark Meyers**, on behalf of the World Community Service Committee, spoke about their meeting on March 17, 2022 where they approved a \$1500 donation from the committee's budget toward the Rotary International Ukraine Refugee Aid effort. The committee is challenging our Muskegon Rotary club to raise an additional \$1500. At the WEHOP board last Tuesday, they approved \$1500 donation from their fund after hearing our Muskegon Challenge and are now challenging the other local clubs to match the \$1500 mark. **John Noling** also informed us that three of our Interact Clubs have set that goal as well and are now challenging the other Interact Clubs as well.

Rotarians have given \$1.2 Million US so far. To donate to Rotary's Disaster Response Fund to support refugees and victims of the Ukraine crisis, click the link below through Rotary International's website or through cash/checks at a club meeting. Contact Mark for more information.

Donation link:

<https://lnkd.in/eQTexMPG>

For a report of the Rotary International Ukraine Projects as of March 17, 2022, [click here](#).

Parties in the Park



Merica Dobry announced June 3, 2022 is the date for the first Party in the Park this year. Save the date and more details to come.

2022 March Madness & Final Four Brave Rotarians!



Thank you to all our Brave Rotarians for their participation in 2022 March Madness & support of the Rotary Foundation. Stay tuned for who is still on the roster in the coming weeks! (Current roster on the last page)

Don Crandall (Kansas)
Judy Hayner (Villanova)
Marcia Hovey-Wright (Duke)
Steve Olsen (North Carolina)

Life Leadership

If you know of a deserving high school leader for this terrific scholarship opportunity, please contact **Brianna Scott** or **John Noling** for more information.

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 Lori Weiler lori.weiler@summitlawncare.net

Interact Insider

Re-Formed Muskegon High School Interact Already Highly Active

Kylee Foster updated our club that they already raised \$470 from the first pop can drive and donating \$95 of that to the Ukraine Relief Fund. Adelyn Witmer also mentioned two other projects they are involved in which are planting trees by a local highway for beautification and to help the ecosystem and a beach clean-up project in April that other interact clubs are involved in as well.



8th Street Park Updates



Asaline Scott reported the Muskegon Heights Police Department (MHPD) and the G.U.N.S. (Gaining Unity through Nonviolent Solutions) Programs are working to upgrade the 8th Street Park, located between Hovey and Barney Avenues, in the city of Muskegon Heights. The plan is to upgrade the Basketball Courts, the Football Field, Playground Equipment, add Picnic Tables, and a Concession Stand. The current playground equipment is outdated and deemed unsafe.

The effort to fund these improvements is well underway, and organizers have almost reached their goal. To date, over \$64,000 has been raised through a \$14,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, a

\$6,000 Federal Community Policing grant and support has been leveraged through a matching \$20,000 grant challenge by a local philanthropist that has been matched by Muskegon Community College, DTE, Comerica Bank, Hackley Community Care, Tyler Sales, Trinity/Mercy Health, D & D Logistics, Mr. Max McKee, Webb Chemical, The Grand Rapids/West Michigan Urban League, Muskegon Heights Optimist, Muskegon County Lake Hawks and many other individual donors. In addition, the Muskegon Tech Center students will build a Concession Stand in the spring of 2022.

Dr. Pamela Smith is coordinating this project and is asking for Rotary's help with donations for the playground equipment and assistance with the community installation on April 22nd.

Donations can be made and sent to:

The Lakehawks Foundation:
 For a Tax-Deductible Donation Make Check to: Lake Hawks in Flight Foundation, Inc - GUNS Program in Memo Line. Mail to: Lake Hawks in Flight Foundation
 1845 Lakeshore Dr Suite 43
 Muskegon, MI 49441
 ATTN: Ron Jenkins - GUNS Park Upgrades
 or to the Heights Police Department:
 Please make your Sponsorship Check to: The Muskegon Heights Police Department (GUNS Program on Memo line). Mail to: 2715 Baker Street
 Muskegon Heights, MI 49444
 Attn: Chief Maurice Sain

There is no deadline for the \$1,000 donation, but they encourage the Rotary and individual donors to send money as soon as possible. In addition to the playground equipment, there are several different projects to complete. The plaque/signage recognition will be ordered in early (winter) 2022. Workers are needed for trash pick-up, painting, stump removal, landscaping and community build of playground equipment in April. A sign-up sheet will be posted the first week of April on G.U.N.S. Facebook Page. For more information, contact Pam at 513-304-6144 or pams_14221@yahoo.com; Janet Robinson at muskegongrants@gmail.com; Maruice Sain at Maurice.sain@mcd911.net; or **Asaline Scott**.

This Week's Spotlight: Esther Ricco



Esther has been a Rotary ReWine member since 2016. She really wanted to get involved with the Muskegon community. Working in Allendale, she wanted to connect more with people that live in the same area that she does.

Esther and her husband Kevin just had their 24th wedding anniversary. They have a 27 year-old son, a great dane, a pug, and a hamster. Esther loves to travel, cook, bake, garden, lots of various outdoor activities, and dining out (especially with ReWine).

As the Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Finance and Administration at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Esther's job entails planning, organizing, staying on top of many things, and making sure to see the big picture while micromanaging all the details. As a planner (who -she admits- may have driven the chili cookoff committee crazy), this job has been a great fit and she has been there for 23 years. Working with the Interactors has been wonderful for her and she even hired one Interactor from a previous El Salvador trip.

To view Esther's video, [click here](#).

Pours for Polio: Muskegon Rotary Club Fundraiser



Happy Hours

(Click the Deadline Links to Sign Up):

1. Unruly Brewing Company

Date: April 18, 2022

Time: 5:00 - 7:00PM

Location: Unruly Brewing Company
360 W. Western Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440



[Sign up Deadline: Sunday, April 17](#)

2. Pigeon Hill Brewing Company

Date: April 19, 2022

Time: 5:00-7:00PM

Location: Pigeon Hill Brewing Company
895 Fourth Street
Muskegon, MI 49440



[Sign up Deadline: Monday, April 18](#)

3. 18th Amendment Spirits Co.

Date: April 20, 2022

Time: 5:00-7:00PM

Location: 18th Amendment Spirits Co.
350 W. Western Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440



[Sign up Deadline: Tuesday, April 19](#)

4. Burl & Sprig

Date: April 21, 2022

Time: 5:00-7:00PM

Location: Burl & Sprig
333 W. Western Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440



[Sign up Deadline: Wed., April 20](#)

5. Rake Beer Project

Date: April 27, 2022

Time: 5:00-7:00PM

Location: Rake Beer Project
794 Pine Street
Muskegon, MI 49440



[Sign up Deadline: Tues., April 26](#)

6. Wonderland Distillery

Date: April 28, 2022

Time: 5:00-7:00PM

Location: Wonderland Distillery
1989 Lakeshore Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441



[Sign-up Deadline: Wed., April 27](#)



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Attend and purchase the specialty Rotary drink!
 - Invite friends and spread the word!
 - Be a happy hour host!
 - Contact **Mary Anne Gorman** or **Lisa Metzdorf** with New Member Engagement Committee
 - Donate!
 - Become a \$250 Sponsorship (Individual or Business)
 - All donation amounts are welcome
- Checks to:
Muskegon Rotary Foundation - Pours
PO Box 66
Muskegon, MI 49443

The proceeds that are going to go to this are supporting the Rotary International in our efforts to eradicate polio but also beyond that to help clean water initiatives, hygiene and health care worldwide. We also want to increase community awareness of rotary and its incentives, engage and recruit new members, provide a social opportunity to members and also leverage some matches.



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

Electric Vehicles



Speaker: Karl Bloss

Introduced By: **Rich Houtteman**

RIM Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**

With the snow, the wind and the cold returning to Muskegon (or has it even left, yet??) it was a nice diversion to hear about a 21st Century twist on one of America's favorite pastime: Hitting the open road. The weather wasn't conducive to Chevy Bolt test drives, but our speaker Dr. Karl Bloss brought his to Rotary anyway....it comes with the job, literally, as Consumers Energy's EV (electric vehicle) Program Manager.

Karl, an engineer, and we learned, a fellow 2009 Leadership West Michigan graduate with our own **President Jason**, admits he "flunked retirement" after ending his career with Bayer in 2018 (including a stint, obviously, in West Michigan at the facility Bayer operated at the time north of Muskegon).

Bloss joined Consumers Energy in January 2021. (Editor's note, this RIM correspondent is a proud Consumers Energy retiree.) He and his wife live in downtown Muskegon with a collection of EVs, from a Tesla to a motorcycle, but he admits it took him a while to become a EV lover.

While still at Bayer, he worked in Germany from 2011-2014. The standard issue company car was a diesel VW, with diesel fuel prices at \$8 a gallon. Karl said he was around so much diesel residue he even saw it when he blew his nose (now *there's* a visual!)

He got his first electric vehicle, a used 2012 Nissan Leaf, as a commuter car when he returned to the U.S. in the mid 2010s. He's been hooked ever since!



Electric cars are just more efficient, he said. "Gasoline cars have 10,000 moving parts and 1800's technology," he told the Club. "They've added new things like Bluetooth but it's mainly very old technology."

Focusing on "what makes cars go" and the costs per mile, EVs make a lot of sense, he said. For example, 85 percent of the energy from gasoline is wasted in an internal combustion engine. On the other hand, an electric motor uses 80 percent of the energy created by a battery...and an electric car has 150 moving parts, not 10,000!



Less parts means less things to replace...like oil, spark plugs, etc. Bloss has a 2015 Tesla with more than 100,000 miles with the original brakes, because one of the things electric cars create is "regenerative

braking." Now, as for tires, Bloss admits he's gone through a few sets of those...although it wouldn't be accurate to say he has a "lead foot." Maybe a lithium (battery) foot...



There are a variety of ways to charge electric vehicles today, and the options are always increasing, Bloss said. He said he recalls when he moved back to the Muskegon area in 2018, there were no "fast-charging" stations north of I-96. That is certainly not the case today. With more charging stations and options, like "fast charging," where a car can be almost fully charged in as little as 30 minutes, "we're changing range anxiety to range awareness," he said. In time, he said, there will be more people deciding to drive EVs when charging becomes similar to a "gas station experience" of 3 to 5 minutes. Electric car availability, charging locations (and a lot of other cool EV info) can be found at www.PlugStar.com.



While the public charging infrastructure grows, 80 percent of the charging is still done at home, and Consumers Energy offers a rebate program for at-home chargers with special pricing for charging at "off peak" times overnight. He said "the cars have

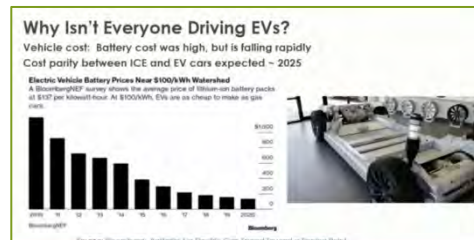
the smarts” to charge when the electricity is less expensive, making it more economical. For example, the cost to fuel a gasoline vehicle for 50 miles, getting 25 MPG at \$3 a gallon gas (the good ol’ days....like 6 weeks ago) is \$6.40. By comparison, The off-peak home charging rate offered by Consumers Energy for the same 50 miles would result in a total cost of \$2.63.

How Does Consumers Energy Get Involved?

- Education**
 - \$500 for approved Level 2 Charger at their residence, and enroll on a TOU Rate
- Rebates**
 - Bring Your Own Charger - \$10 monthly rebate for customers originally ineligible for home charger rebate
- Electric Rates for EV Drivers**
 - Up to \$5,000 for commercial customers - Level 2 Charger
- Fleets**
 - Up to \$5,000 for commercial customers - DC Fast Charger

Wait List!
Extension Applied for with MWSC

For more information on Consumers Energy’s EV program, visit www.PowerMIDrive.com. Consumers Energy is also working to be coal free by 2025 and net carbon neutral by 2040. Learn more at www.MICleanEnergyPlan.com



He said battery costs are the biggest factor in an EV cost but “the costs are rapidly falling.” He said once the total cost of operating an electric vehicle gets under \$100 per kilowatt hour, it will be comparable to the cost of gasoline engines. He said the current cost is about \$130/kWhr. While acknowledging that building electric cars has an environmental impact, he said it is less than internal combustion cars, and the resulting vehicle has zero emissions.

What Can You Do To Find Out More?

- Contact your electric utility!
- Call your local dealer and take a test drive.
- Go to PlugStar.com to see what plug-in cars are available.
- If you have the luxury of multiple cars, consider an EV as a commuter car.
- Attend a Drive Electric Earth Day event – Muskegon Farmer’s Market April 30
- Join a Facebook EV group and ask questions!

