

# 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

March 7, 2024

Next Meeting (March 14, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Soup & Sandwich Buffet at the **Lake House**  
Program Topic – Muskegon County Housing Assessment Network

## What's Coming

**March 14** Muskegon County Housing Study Results

**March 21** Improving Lives of Justice: Involved Women in Muskegon Co

## Upcoming Birthdays

**March 17** Eileen Stoffan  
**March 18** Edward Alexander  
**March 19** Cathy Brubaker-Clarke  
**March 20** Tim Lipan

## Caring

### Connections Fund

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



## Greeters This Week

Myra Dutton & Eric Seifert

## Reflectors

Meredith Smillie	Mar 7
Bill Loxterman	Mar 14
Darlene Collett	Mar 21
Roger Morgenstern	Mar 28

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Mark Alpher  
RIM Reporter – Susan Besteman  
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

3/7/2024 Muskegon Rotary  
YouTube Video Link: [Click Here](#)

## VISITORS & GUESTS



**Ken James** brought his other MCC DEI team member, Dr. Van McMullen.



**Sue Samaniego** introduced his guest, Isabel Grace, Digital Marketing Specialist at MCC and who was also a former Interactor at Mona Shores.



**Carla Flanders** brought her friend, Dr. Crystal Frazee (Leadership Development, Coaching, & Consulting Agency)



Orchard View High School Principal, Samantha Wilson, was introduced by **Marty Sytsema**. Samantha announced their impressive Robotics Event and introduced seniors Ray Dowdy (early MCC program already then headed Saginaw Valley after graduation) and Lillian Cline (early MCC program as well and is undecided where she will head from there).

## Muskegon Rotary Board

Ginny Sprague, President  
Tim Arter, President-Elect  
Dave Alexander, President Nominee  
Jane Clingman-Scott, Past President  
Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer  
Don Hutchins, Secretary  
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

### Directors:

Aaron Maiké	Roger Morgenstern
David Ramos	Asaline Scott
Marty Sytsema	Brandon Turnbull

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

ReWine meetings are every first and third Thursday each month at 5:15pm at Walker's (in the Delta).

## Last Week's Program: R.B. Annis Water Resources Institute



Speaker: Prof. Mark Luttonton  
Introduced by: **Arn Boezaart**  
Reporter: **Susan Besteman**

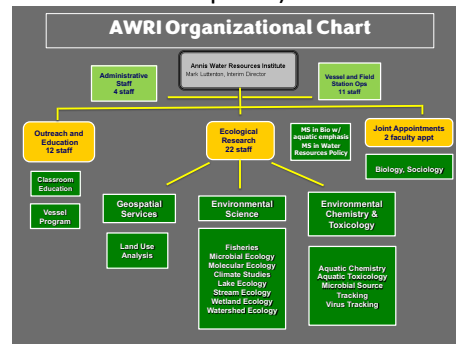
Where is the next Covid outbreak going to be? Where can I go to find the big brown trout? Do the Great Lakes have fungi that may be a source of an anti-cancer drug? These are just three of the many questions Professor Mark Luttonton and the



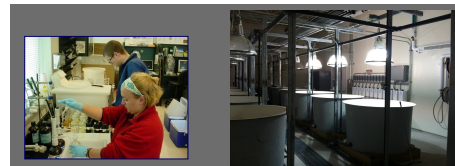
research staff at the R.B. Annis Water Resources Institute can answer. Professor Mark Luttonton is a faculty member of

the Department of Biology at GVSU and is presently serving as the Interim Director at the R.B. Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) in Muskegon where their mission is, "Integrate research, education, and outreach to enhance and preserve freshwater resources." With over 30 years in operation, they have achieved this goal; however, they are continuing to achieve more every year with their staff in Administration (4), Vessel and Field Station Ops (11), Outreach and Education (12),

Ecological Research staff (22), and Joint Appointments (2 - Grand Rapids & Allendale Campuses) .



Mark went into more detail about the facilities including a renovation to their conference room to host zoom conferences and the fascinating field station with twelve 350-gallon tanks used for experiments in a controlled environment with Muskegon Lake water.



They also have two research vessels (65' W.G. Jackson & 45' D.J. Angus) and a few small vessels (pontoon, electroshocker, & john boats).

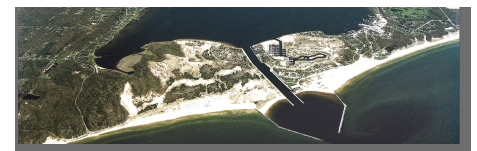


AWRI has reached students in undergraduate classes, two MS programs (Biology with emphasis in aquatic sciences & Water Resource Policy with a broad international interest), and even K-12 programming with their Landside and Boat programs. With approximately 190,000 passengers on the AWRI vessels since 1986, their program may have touched more students in hands-on science than any other university or institution (at least in

Michigan at this point) according to Mark. AWRI has a summer intern program where they bring in a couple dozen undergraduates (including from MCC) and they get the full spectrum of what it means to be a scientist (hard work, but the payoff is spectacular when they see the results and the impact that they have).



The research they do is extensive and valuable. They have been able to track Covid 19 in wastewater since the disease emerged and they are now able to tell us where the next outbreak is going to be before it happens. The water chemistry has started to link to microbial chemistry linked to life billions of years ago. Over 60 fungi in the Great Lakes has been linked to exhibit anti-cancer properties. And of course, they can tell you where the big brown trout are.



"AWRI is recognized as a leader in collaborative research that produces real world solutions for real world problems, training the next generation of aquatic science professionals, and in connecting society to the water resources." Mark would like others to recognize how precious our water resources really are.

For the full video, [click here](#).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Rotarians/Interactors Return from Honduras



Rotary/Interact team is honored by the school and community above.

Our Honduras Library service project team has now returned home but look what they have accomplished in one week! A colorful, inviting, and much needed elementary school library for 900 students in Santa Rosa de Conan, Honduras.

See and hear them share their great stories at our June 20 Rotary meeting. Congratulations to all!



## POURS FOR COMMUNITY



**Tim Arter** reminded us that Pours for Community is coming up soon! The proceeds are used for the Muskegon Rotary charities and provides a great networking opportunity as well. Consider being a sponsor and see Tim for this form. Below are the designated locations this year; including a bonus Trivia Night at the Valkyrie this year so get your team together now!

- 1--Thursday, April 11 at Valkyrie at the Four Corners (NM) 6:00-9:00PM. (This will be a trivia night.)
- 2--Friday, April 19 at Wonderland Distilleries 4:00-6:00PM
- 3--Monday, April 22 at Unruly Brewing 5:00-7:00PM
- 4--Thursday, April 25 at 794 Kitchen 5:00-7:00PM





## Food Trucks – Volunteers Needed



**Arn Bozaart** announced we have two food trucks sponsored by Rotary for the community coming up. The first is on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The clipboard was passed around and all 15 spots were already filled by the announcement time! Arn mentioned more than 15 volunteers is welcome - that would lighten the load even more!

## Member Spotlight Gabe Gerlach



**Gabrielle Gerlach** is the CEO of the Muskegon YMCA. One of the outstanding programs she works with is water safety. The Y serves over a thousand kids a year in this effort. The goal is to serve every third grader in Muskegon County. They are almost there, with only two schools in the county yet to participate.

Watch the video [here](#).

## Great Michigan Read



**Annette Jack** read The Great Michigan Read book, “Fire Keeper’s Daughter” and couldn’t put it down. She highly recommended this book. The story takes place in the upper peninsula and is a great detective story with a touch of love and education. There were bookmarks on the tables at the meeting for Rotarians to take.

If you are done with your book and would like to share it for others to borrow, or if you need a copy, please contact **Doug Wood** at [dwood1952@gmail.com](mailto:dwood1952@gmail.com).

Register here to meet the author on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Orchard View High School:

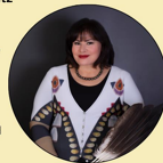
<https://madl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=9705&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2024/04/17>

For further information, contact **Cathy Brubaker-Clarke** at [cbrubakerclarke@developmuskegon.org](mailto:cbrubakerclarke@developmuskegon.org).

## AUTHOR VISIT ANGELINE BOULLEY

Bestselling Young Adult Novelist Printz Medal & Morris Award Winner

Don't miss out on your chance to hear from best-selling author Angeline Bouley, who will be visiting Muskegon as a stop on her tour for the Great Michigan Read. She will be speaking about her book *Firekeeper's Daughter*, an electrifying thriller layered with a rich exploration of the modern Native experience, a reckoning of current and historical injustices, and a powerful celebration of community. A book sale and signing will follow the presentation.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 6:00 PM  
ORCHARD VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

REGISTER AT [MADL.ORG/MIREAD](https://madl.org/miread)

## Muskegon Rising Ep 8: Muskegon’s New Economy



You don't want to miss Episode 9 of the Muskegon Rising podcast with Cindy Larsen, President of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce!

Wonder how Muskegon transformed from a lumber town to a center for diverse industries? This episode explores Muskegon's rich history, its thriving present, and its bright future. You'll hear about:

- The legacy of lumber and manufacturing that paved the way for today's success.
- The inspiring story behind downtown Muskegon's comeback.
- What makes Muskegon County a magnet for local, national, and international investment.
- The amazing quality of life and skilled workforce that Muskegon boasts.

Tune in and learn why Muskegon County is an amazing place to live, work, and invest:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/14632665-muskegon-s-new-economy>

## RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Lori Weiler

Reporters: Jackie Farrar, Kathy Moore  
Roger Morgenstern,  
Meredith Smillie

Photographers: Mark Alpher & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: Bill Johanson,  
John Noling, & Mike Vogas



## March Madness Brave Rotarian Contest

Hello fellow Rotarians,  
Are you ready for some March Madness? **Meredith Smillie** is looking for 32 Brave Rotarians for this year's March Madness Contest. Our winners have the opportunity to win a coveted Paul Harris Fellow Award for themselves; or can present to the person of their choosing. \$100 in cash or a check made to the Muskegon Rotary Foundation (please put March Madness in the memo line) will get you entered into this year's contest. Selection Sunday is on March 17, and we will begin our bracket with the round of Sweet 16 for both the men's and women's division. The round of Sweet 16 commences on March 28. Since we are collecting \$3,200, we will do a random drawing of the contestants for a third Paul Harris Fellow Award. See Meredith Smillie to sign up or contact her email her at [msmillie@bethany.org](mailto:msmillie@bethany.org) or 616-566-9828.

## Thank you, Ed Hendrickson!

**Ed Hendrickson** is one of those Rotarians volunteering behind-the-scenes at almost every meeting. In addition to this, sometimes you'll catch Ed volunteering for the raffle or other Rotary events. Thank you, Ed, for your service for our club and community!



## Dawn Alpher – Former Rotary Youth Exchange Student - did great at Rockford Rotary!

Dawn is spouse of Muskegon Rotarian **Mark Alpher** and 47 years ago she was sponsored by Rockford Rotary to go to Brazil as YE outbound (at that time, her last name was Dawn Wolfe). It did her a world of good!



Dawn thanked them and shared with their club how it "pushed her trajectory" in life and how she lived as an "ambassador" for the United States.



Also featured was a Rockford YE outbound (to Thailand) from 2017 now studying MBA in International Business and zooming in from London!

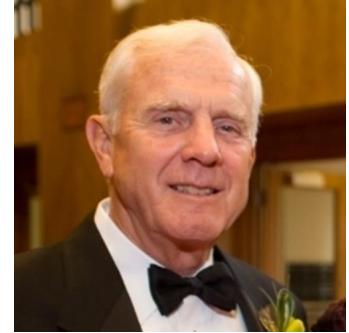
**Rob Mathis** and **Lisa Stafford** joined on Zoom.

Thanks Rockford and Jon Loux for great program today!

Contributed by **John Noling**



## Robert Lorin "Buzz" Kersman



Robert Lorin (Buzz) Kersman passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, February 26th, 2024. He was a true family man and will be greatly missed by friends & family.

He was born in Detroit, MI on August 29, 1939, to L. Herb Kersman and Elizabeth Hall Kersman. The family moved to Muskegon when Buzz was three, and he attended North Muskegon Public School until graduating in 1957. He continued his education at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, graduating in 1962. From there he served in the US Army as a lieutenant in the Armor division, joining "Operation Big Lift" in which the Army flew an entire armored division over to Europe.

In December 1963 Buzz married his long-time sweetheart, Wendy Morris, and they both returned to Ft. Riley, Kansas where they continued to live until his term of military service was over. Returning to Muskegon with his wife and infant son, Buzz bought Kersman Company from his father, rather than work for him at the then Coil Anodizers. Together he and his father formed a third company, Kersco. Shortly after selling Kersman Company, Buzz joined his father at the then renamed Lorin Industries, taking over the presidency in 1985. He loved his work and the people there and made many improvements including co-generation, a specialized slitter and acid reclamation. He was especially proud of introducing the Scanlon System allowing his employees input to running different aspects of the company. For his full obituary, [click here](#).

