

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

May 16, 2024

Next Meeting (May 23, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Bruschetta Chicken - at the Lake House
Program Topic – Muskegon's Two-Way Immersion Program

What's Coming

May 23 – Muskegon's Two-Way Immersion Program
May 30 – Update on the Solar Power Project @ MCWMS

Upcoming Birthdays

May 23 Marianne Darnell
May 24 Craig Pirrotta & Bob Scolnik
May 26 Cynthia Maynard
May 27 Marty Sytsema
May 29 Jeffrey Fortenbacher & Donata Kidd

Caring Connections Fund

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



Greeters This Week

Cindy Maynard & Susan Besteman

Reflectors

Adam Bell	May 16
Joannie Smith	May 23
Jane Clingman-Scott	May 30
OPEN	June 6

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Susan Besteman
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

VISITORS & GUESTS



Phil McPherson introduces his guest, Stephanie Murray (Outreach & Marketing Coordinator at LifeCircles PACE).



Doug Wood introduces his guest and Interact parent Danielle Bradfield (mom of five girls, Co-Owner of Hey Sugar Cotton Candy, and works at Port City Church).



Andrea Riegler with guest Mallory Rich (job shadow student from Muskegon Catholic Central focusing on architecture & interior design).



Marty Sytsema brought in our last group of student guests this week. Visiting us from Mona Shores High School were, from left, seniors Adeline Bean (will attend U of M to study molecular, cellular, and developmental biology on a pre-med track) and Jacob Schnotala (heading to MCC on the Muskegon Promise and then CMU to study in cinematic arts) and counselor Stacie Meyers.

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

5/16/2024 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Interact Insider

This week's program: Interact Clubs



Speakers: Jacinda Patrick, Zuri LaBrenz, Brook Buchan, and Amara Bradfield

Introduced by: **Doug Brown**

Facilitated by: **John Noling**

Reporter: **Susan Besteman**

Interactors are making a difference in our community and internationally! The presentation began with an outstanding video produced by our own **Mike Vogas**. [Click here to see the video.](#)

Doug Brown, co-chair of the Interact Committee, introduced the panel of impressive Interact students and fellow Rotarian **John Noling** who facilitated the questions.

How did our Muskegon Interact Clubs make an impact this year?

Jacinda Patrick from North Muskegon mentioned their partnership with the non-profit company, Citi Boi, for many volunteer opportunities including adopting a family for Christmas.



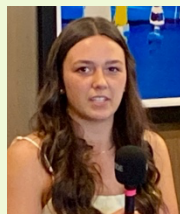
Zuri LaBrenz from Muskegon High School shared their club (even though a bit smaller) was able



John Noling, who works with all our Club's student groups, moderated the panel discussion. From left are Jacinda Patrick from North Muskegon, Zuri LaBrenz from Muskegon, Brook Buchan from Reeths-Puffer, and Amara Bradfield from Mona Shores.

to make a difference through their volunteer efforts at Supper House (once a month) and hosting blood drives.

Brook Buchan from Reeths-Puffer spoke about their Toys for Tots drive (over 1000 toys were donated) and their prom dress drive.



Amara Bradfield from Mona Shores was proud of their work with their Girls on the Run cheer booth and

their Every Woman's Place drive where around 200 items were donated.

Their successes did not come without some challenges which included scheduling conflicts, smaller groups of volunteers, low attendance, and commitment concerns. However, these young leaders pivoted and decided to do smaller projects as needed and began recruiting which included adding a middle school club at one of their schools. Noling continued his fantastic questions and asked how our club could support these trailblazers more? They answered with a call for more Rotary members to attend their high school meetings (and share experiences), offer a point of contact so

information can be distributed to each other's interact clubs more efficiently, and reach out to the graduating seniors to continue their Rotary membership as they enter the next phase in their lives.

Even though there are four representatives at this presentation, there are six Interact clubs in Muskegon County. Orchard View could not be present but also impacted our community this year and their top two volunteer projects were Adopt-A-Family and Irish Festival. Oakridge also was not available for this presentation, but they contributed so much with their stockings for children, Rotary Micro Forest planting, community garden, can drives, bake sale for Life Leadership Conference students, Chili Cook-Off, Rotary beach clean-up, cherry planting, tree potting, and also sent a student to El Salvador!

Facilitator Noling left us with, "Ladies and gentlemen, do you see an impact?" (Applause) "I certainly do." Rotary has been involved in youth leadership since 1962 and **Doug Wood** challenged us to continue this tradition and get involved. "These are the 'kids these days'" exclaimed Doug.



For the full presentation, [CLICK HERE](#).

Member Spotlight Claire Root-Benson



Claire is the Executive Director of the Poppen Program, an arts scholarship, serving the Muskegon Public Schools, third grade and up. She is also the cub advisor for the Muskegon High School Interact Club, which has been growing post-pandemic. She connects well with students going through adolescence.

Watch her video [here](#).

collaboration with the YMCA to present the Seaway Run, a signature family event promoting a healthy, active lifestyle within the Muskegon community. We wish the YMCA continued success with the Seaway Run, helping make Muskegon a healthy, vibrant community. We look forward to future collaborations with other Muskegon non-profit organizations to address community needs and improve the lives of our fellow Muskegon citizens."



Thank you, Muskegon Rotary Club!

President Ginny read a "thank you" note from Mort Kantor's daughters expressing their gratitude for our Caring Connection Fund flowers gifted for his celebration of life.



Community Grants



Immediate Past President Jane Clingman Scott is the current chair of the Foundation's grant committee and was happy to be part of our Foundation which has awarded a half million

dollars in grants to community nonprofits since 1994. She noted our first grant was our largest at \$45,000 and was used to pave Hackley Park. This year, four organizations were supported by our funds: Business Equity Initiative Fund, Momentum Center, Muskegon County Bicycling Coalition, and Ride United. The Muskegon Bicycling Coalition,



where **Rob Taylor** volunteers (additional pictures included), and the Business Equity Initiative Fund, established by **Nancy McCarthy** and others, are two local non-profits which recently received grants from the Muskegon Rotary Foundation. The Foundation provided \$17,500 in grants this year. The Muskegon Rotary Foundation is proud to partner with these organizations to enhance the health and well-being of the Muskegon community as we have been doing for 40 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seaway Run Changes

The 2024 Trinity Health Seaway Run, the premiere Muskegon Lakeshore running event in its 44 years, is being reorganized but will have the same race events with its signature awe-inspiring racecourse views.

The Trinity Health Seaway Run is a community collaboration between the Muskegon YMCA and the Muskegon Rotary Club. This partnership dates back to 2012 and the One in 21 Community Health initiative. With an operating agreement ending at the end of 2023, the leaders of both community-based non-profits agreed it was an opportune time for the race organization to take a new direction. The Muskegon Rotary Club, the community's leading service club, will no longer be involved with the event and will assess future collaborations to address other community needs.

Ginny Sprague, President of the Muskegon Rotary Club, said, "We are proud of our twelve-year

Parties In the Park

Rotary will be hosting the first Parties in the Park for 2024 in beautiful downtown Muskegon's Hackley Park May 31. Festivities will continue throughout the summer. A SignUp Genius was sent out this week for our Party in the Park on Friday, May 31st, from 5 to 9:00 p.m. Please volunteer! The below volunteer link is now updated for that specific date (sorry for any confusion).

[VOLUNTEER LINK – CLICK HERE](#)



Coffee Connect



Connect with fellow Rotarians over coffee on June 12, 2024, 8-9am at Muskegon Museum of History and Science (430 W. Clay Ave.) Contact Melissa@LakeshoreMuseum.org to RSVP or for questions.



Donations Needed for Youth Exchange Program



Kristi Pawlak announced a new fund-raising program for scholarship funds for our youth exchange students--an online auction! Contact Kristi or **Craig Pirrotta** (craigpirrotta@gmail.com) if you want to donate items in your home you no longer want. Rotarians will pick up the items (June 3rd-14th) and add them to a locally run online auction on June 26th. Remember one person's trash is another person's treasure!

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 Maike
 David Ramos
 Marty Sytsema
 Roger Morgenstern
 Asaline Scott
 Brandon Turnbull
Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):

SAVE THE DATE! HARVEST FEST IS OCTOBER 24, 2024



Celebrate the season with an evening of fall harvest culinary delights created by Baker College's Culinary Institute of Michigan (CIM) paired with a variety of wines, craft beers and seltzers. This community event in downtown Muskegon will provide great networking opportunities and chances to win prizes, all while raising funds to support local charitable organizations through the Rotary Foundation. More details and ticket information to come! Plenty of volunteer assistance will be needed. See co-chairs **Roger Morgenstern** or **Dave Alexander** if you would like to help.

Adopt-A-Highway MDOT Pickup



The next pick up will be on Saturday, July 13. If interested in helping at the next pick up, please email Esther Ricco (riccoe@gvsu.edu)

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar
 Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie
 Photographers: Mark Alpher & Roger Morgenstern
 Contributors: Bill Johanson, John Noling, & Mike Vogas

Ep 19: Mark Eisenbarth, Muskegon County Administrator



Muskegon County is booming, and keeping all our communities and governments on the same page is a big job. Muskegon County Administrator Mark Eisenbarth has been tackling it for a decade. In Episode 19 of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, we explore how Mark builds leadership through trust and relationships and how the Muskegon County government is a shining example of the power of collaboration.

Tune in to learn more:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/15066354-mark-eisenbarth-muskegon-county-administrator>



Sunday, June 9

Gates open at 3:00 p.m.
First pitch 4:05 p.m.

\$15 per carload or \$5 per single admission



We're "Vested" in Mike!



Mike Vogas was looking sharp in his Rotary embroidered vest at Thursday's meeting. Thank you, **Joanie Smith** for this contribution. 😊