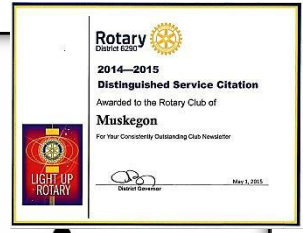


"Service Above Self" Muskegon Rotary in Motion



<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>

Jason Piasecki, President
Jane Clingman-Scott, President-Elect
Ginny Sprague, President Nominee
Mark Meyers, Immediate 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 Meeting November 4, 12-1:30pm
Hybrid Style – The Delta
ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 11/4 5:15 pm

Mary Anne Gorman, Director
Jeff Lewis, Director
Doug Wood, Director
Asaline Scott, Director
David Ramos, Director
Marty Gerencer, Director
Susan Besteman, 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 (11/4/21 United Way of the Lakeshore)

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

Heidi Sytsema

REFLECTORS

Eric Seifert Oct 28
Darlene Collet Nov 4

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Bill Erickson Nov 5
Kevin Donovan Nov 6
Meggie Kwiatkowski Nov 9
David Ramos Nov 9
Don't forget [Caring Connection Fund!](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

11/4 United Way of the Lakeshore Update
11/11 Muskegon Sports Complex Update

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Book Discussion Groups:

The discussions on the book *The Sum of Us* will take place on **Tuesday, Nov 2 and Tuesday, Nov 9** at noon via zoom.

The discussions on the book *Caste* will take place **Wednesday, Nov. 3 and Wednesday, Nov. 10** at noon.

Those who signed up will receive a zoom link on the Monday before. If anyone else is interested, please call Nancy McCarthy @ 740-4631 or email mccarthynance@yahoo.com
There are still books available.

VISITORS & GUESTS

John Noling's son, Zach, joined us today. Zach may not be an official member of our Rotary Club, but he lives Service Above Self regardless.

A Paul Harris Fellow, Zach gives four days every year working with the Life Leadership Conference.



Jim Fisher introduced prospective member Lisa Stafford, Human Resources Manager and Strategic Business Partner of WorkWise, a local human resources recruiting company.



Sandra Gaddy, CEO of Women's Resource Center was a guest of **Asaline Scott**. Sandra had some exciting announcements for Muskegon County. The Grand Rapids Women's Resource Center has programs coming to Muskegon soon.



Kathy Betts' guest was Rey Peña, Boys and Girls club of Muskegon Lakeshore Clubhouse program director.



Click [here](#) to watch the recording of this meeting. Thanks to Past President **Mark Meyers** for stepping in this week!

Marty Sytsema welcomed Nate Gearlings, CFO of iMove.



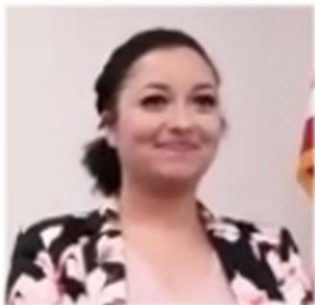
Marty also welcomed students from Reeths Puffer High School, Brianna Stosky and Clay Grant.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Induction

Sponsored by **Cathy Brubaker-Clarke**, our newest Muskegon Rotarian, **Contessa Hood**, is one of Muskegon's up-and-coming leaders.



She was born and raised in Muskegon, where she attended Reeths Puffer High school. She was an honors student, athlete, and symphonic band member as well as a part-time worker. She left Muskegon to attend Central Michigan University where she received her B.S. in Community Development with a concentration in Health Science. She currently works for Greater Muskegon Economic Development as their Economic Development Coordinator. Contessa leads in retention work and assists

with new projects in Muskegon County. She also serves as the staff liaison for the Muskegon Heights Business Association. Contessa works closely with the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce with developing a DEI series titled, "Let's Talk Business," that strengthens and encourages our up-and-coming business leaders and entrepreneurs by highlighting resources Muskegon County has to offer. Contessa has finished the first step in becoming a certified Economic Developer and plans to continue with the process. Her greatest accomplishment is being a mother to her three-year-old daughter, E'ssa.

Vocational Spotlight

The spotlight shown on **Steve Olsen** this week. To see the full story, click [here](#).



Steve became a Rotarian in 2000. Steve has been married to Deb for 48 years and they have two children, Sarah (in Georgia) and Matt (in Muskegon). Northern Machine Tool was started by Steve's father and a partner in 1946. They were WWII veterans who wanted to start a business. In 1997, Steve started working with his father. Being a solid family business, he now works with his brother (Dan), son, and nephew. Rotary was a great fit because the focus is giving back to the community and Steve was taught to always give back to the community, whether that is time, talent, or treasures. In joining, he felt Rotary offered more to him than he can probably offer to it. Steve felt Rotary was like being part of an organization with high moral ground that gives back to the community around.

Final Rotary Food Truck This Year

The **November 17** food truck at the Muskegon Heights Temple Methodist Church location will be the last truck that Rotary is sponsoring this year. Anyone who has thought about helping out 'one of these days'.... this is your last opportunity. We will need a good turnout of at least 15 volunteers, friends, family, significant others, etc. Volunteers who plan to join us will need to **arrive between 3:00 and 3:15 to assist with set up. The actual food distribution will begin at 4:00 p.m.** Please note that the start time for this last truck will begin an hour earlier than before, because of the change-over from daylight savings time the beginning of November. Anyone interested in helping out please send **Arn Boezaart** an e-mail or text message at 616-745-8465

This Week's Program: Rotary's Youth Programs

By Susan Besteman

It's been a while since we have heard from the Youth Programming in totality, so it was wonderful to see the panel together for a live and open discussion this week. The last couple of years have been difficult for this group too; however, the behind-the-scenes work continued despite the challenges.

Lin Turnage—Youth Exchange Officer



Lin facilitates the exchange of students who are interested in studying abroad from Muskegon to other countries and those from other countries who want to study here in Muskegon for a year.

Lin wanted to be part of Youth Exchange since joining Rotary in 2018 because she lived abroad for four years in her childhood. That experience had a profound impact on who she became as an adult (how she sees the world and interacts with other people based on that experience). Lin was also grateful to “stand on the shoulders of giants” such as Joanie Smith (who oversaw this committee by herself for five years), **Kristi Pawlak** (who was a Rotary Exchange student in Japan, came back and then became a Japanese Professor), and **Cody “Chip” Chipman** (who is continuously going to high schools to get the word out about Youth Exchange).

“If every sixteen-year-old went on Exchange, we would never have wars.”

Youth Exchange is important because “it gives kids a chance to see life from a different perspective” and “makes the world a smaller place” according to Lin. She recited a quote she heard through the program, “If every sixteen-year-old went on Exchange, we would never have wars.” The Youth Exchange Program was thankful to have two students interview at the club level and went on to the district level last week in Petoskey. The two students had nothing but positive feedback from their trip and are even more excited for their journeys. They are now at the stage of looking for host families. If you or someone you know may be interested in hosting an exchange student, contact Lin at 248-971-4784 or look her up in the Muskegon Rotary Directory. They need two families for each student. Host families do not get compensated monetarily but do gain an immense amount of value in other ways, and host families are required to be in the same school district as the exchange student’s school they are hosting.

Megan Byard Karaba —Chair for the Youth Scholarships Committee



Megan became a Muskegon Rotary member in 2012 and her first life-of-service work was through the Youth Exchange Committee as the Youth Exchange Officer and held that role for three years. She was excited and nostalgic listening to Lin continue those efforts. In her current role as a Rotarian and professionally (Mother of Promise for Muskegon Area Promise), scholarships ended up being her bailiwick. A way for her to serve Rotary was a natural progression to the Scholarships Committee. The Scholarships Committee has seen students overall utilizing more local scholarships in the last couple of years. The Muskegon Rotary Scholarship was crafted in honor of two Rotarians who have since passed, Umbre and Austin, and is named the Umbre Austin Award. These two fellow Rotarians had huge passions, flavor, and connections for Muskegon in their professions and local community service level. The \$1000 scholarship is for students out of our eight metro Muskegon school districts (the two schools in the White Lake area have their own scholarship). Once a year, the committee reaches out to the college advisors/counselors and let them know what we are doing as a club and what we have to offer as a scholarship award. Students do need to seek out the scholarship, fill out an application, and talk to their school advisors about their next steps. This scholarship is specific for local enrollment (MCC or Baker). One of the ideas behind the application is to learn a little more about the students with

questions regarding their interests, plans, goals and dreams and it provides evidence behind their words in what they’ve accomplished in high school. The Committee then finds who is best suited for their scholarship award and considers past service experience. The Committee then spends time planning how to stress students’ continuing service importance into college using the Rotary model/mindset. In the last three years, nine students have been helped (\$9,000). With the budgets set every year, the Muskegon Rotary Youth Scholarships Committee has the capability to give four awards every year. Sometimes all four are given in a year; however, sometimes less because of how many have applied and who is or is not deemed worthy of the award. In 2019, three awards were given. In 2020, four awards were given and in 2021, three awards were given. Megan is happy to have the opportunity to have, give and continue this scholarship program within Muskegon Rotary.

Doug Wood— Representative for the Interact Committee (Randy Lindquist is Chair)



Doug’s connection with Rotary started with Interact. Not as a high school kid himself, but as an adult when a group of Rotarians came to his high school wanting to start an Interact Program to give students leadership skills. At the time, Doug didn’t know what either Interact or Rotary meant, but he quickly learned the motto “service above self” as he saw Rotarians give leadership skills to the high school students. Doug noticed the skills we give are very important to these kids

for their lives and for our community. As Doug saw the tough times during this pandemic in the schools (i.e., short staffed, hybrid learning, mask mandates, etc.), he also noticed how the schools with the more established Interact Programs are the most organized and helpful by helping the schools come back and operate even under pandemic rules. The clubs with a younger/newer Interact Program are going well but maybe struggling a bit more; however, still stronger than without an Interact Program. Thank you to all the adults in the schools who sponsor and give the extra time to the kids and these programs; they are under a lot of stress and are still covering each other.

In exciting news, Oakridge has started up an Interact Program and the Committee is hoping to charter RP in the spring of 2022. Orchard View and Muskegon High School contributed students to the United Way Day of Caring. It was moving to watch these kids clean up the cemeteries and tombstones and they found it meaningful to help too. North Muskegon and Reeths-Puffer each sponsoring students through Compassion International which is approximately \$375-\$400 each year to sponsor a child in another country. Mona Shores furnished 12 volunteers for a running event to help with Read Muskegon. Reeths-Puffer is currently working on nine lab coats to donate to veterans working in nursing homes. As Rotarians, they look forward to our participation. They appreciate us coming to their meetings and participating in their fund raisers and events. Thank you to **Chip Chipman** working with Orchard View (Chip is an Orchard View grad). Doug encouraged us to check with the school closest to us or to our hearts and see how we can support them and continue donating pop cans.

John Noling—Life Leadership District Co-Chair and Rotaract Committee.



Life Leadership stems with Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) started in 1949 by then President Stub Beamer and Chase Hammond. They brought 60 boys to Camp Emery that year for leadership training and now this may be the longest running leadership training that Rotary has known. Our Club budgets approximately \$5400 a year for Life Leadership and allows selecting up to fourteen students a year. Since 1989, it went co-ed and it has moved locations five times over the years. In 2020, they were unable to do the conference but this past May, they were able to do a virtual one. They had 111 students from 24 clubs. Our District is 57 clubs so we do not get all clubs participating. Grape Escape and Seaway Run are the biggest fund raisers for this program. John was thankful for all the help with those fundraisers as well as the help from other District Chairs. The location for next year will be Ferris State University (the previous camp in Tustin, MI closed). John works with a ten-member committee and Co-Chair **Breanna Scott** to meet the students personally and make selections. John seeks your nominations for outstanding Sophomores or Juniors, Youth Exchange outbounds, or future interact leaders of their clubs to be considered by his committee.

Rotaract is in trouble; it is not functioning at MCC or Baker. Linda

Meyers had done an outstanding job with Rotaract but has since retired and things have changed. John has been in discussion with **Jim Fischer** and the Board on how we can connect to the young professionals in our community and trying to find a way to get a feeder program. College clubs are potentially not the answer. This one is a four-member committee (presidents of both colleges, John Selmon, and John Noling) who have not met in two years now. There is a club in Holland with an average age of 35 that they are looking to for guidance at this time. John wants us to consider how we can take Interactors and give them a place in Rotaract in Muskegon that maybe isn't just college kids; rather maybe those who are young professionals too and have them gather as a community-based program for those who aren't in college but aren't in Rotary (under 30...).

If anyone wants to help on any of these committees, they would welcome your time and talents.

Trivia Question

Q: Where was the first Rotaract club in the world?



A: Rotaract originally began as a Rotary International youth program in 1968 at Charlotte North Rotary Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, United States, and has grown into a major organization of over 10,904 clubs spread around the world and over 203,000 members in 189 countries.

There's so much to do at Hackley Public Library in November and December! Check out everything coming up right [here](#).

Interact Insider

Students Reflect on Life Leadership Council

**Ana Ivanov, Vice President,
Mona Shores High School
Interact**



Even though the conference was virtual, it was super fun! The staff managed to make a Zoom call feel like an actual summer camp environment by cracking jokes with each other (in the chat too) and running pre-activities before the actual session. The staff were passionate about making the conference work and I was glad to see that it was a mix of speakers, previous conference staff, and previous conferees; this offered many perspectives. The use of get-to-know you polls and breakout rooms at the pre-session was great because one of my favorite parts of camp is getting to know new people! One of the suggestions I would have for the structure is having more time to spend in families or talking to other conferees in breakout rooms just so conferees can form stronger connections after the conference ends. I believe more time would allow for conferees to naturally be more open to sharing their social media/numbers with each other after the conference is done. The conference was definitely worth it because it was a source of encouragement and hope for me as the last year was a challenge as a leader and a student. Rotary has done the conference for so long, and I think that shows how important it is. I have never been a part of an organization that cares more about encouraging young people to become leaders than

Rotary; LLC is a part of this encouragement.

I was most impacted by Ben Whiting's session because of its entertainment and advice. I am always worried as a leader that I will make my peers feel unheard or rejected within the group, so Ben's advice on communication like asking questions instead of making commands was like a lightbulb moment on how to be a better, inclusive leader. I like how he also acknowledged that leaders have to have vision and passion for their cause to motivate the rest of their team; it reminded me to care for myself as a leader too. Of course, the part where Ben guided us to bend a brass key was amazing, and I was absolutely shocked because it reminded me that I may have some beliefs and stereotypes that are holding me back from doing things I know I can do.

I hope to use all the leadership skills I learned at LLC as I lead my school's Student Senate as Vice President and the InterAct club as Vice President. The InterAct Club is obviously involved in service projects, but I want to lead my Student Senate in service projects outside of planning dances and decorating hallways for school spirit weeks. I believe I can expand my leadership with the help of other leaders to gather the student body to participate in school-wide fundraisers and service opportunities. Outside of service, I think the communication skills I learned about can be used as I will be leading the orchestra as a section leader. Just because LLC is focused on leadership skills, I don't think the skills can't be used as I meet new people in college, take on new jobs, and start to take advantage of opportunities for careers.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend LLC and help lead on the Zooms session we planned beforehand. I appreciate you believing in me as a leader and a young person; it means so much.

Did you know.....

The current Rotary District 6290 Life Leadership Conference began on Big Blue Lake in 1949 with 60 boys from 60 Rotary Clubs in two Rotary Districts. Then Muskegon Rotary President C. W. Bemer (Superintendent of Muskegon Public Schools) and fellow Muskegon Rotarian Chase Hammond (Director of Muskegon Parks and Recreation) led the charge within the two Districts to host a five-day conference at Camp Emery in June of 1949. Seventy-three years later, this conference has positively impacted over 6,900 young men and women in District 6290 and will now move to Ferris State University June 15-18, 2022. Muskegon Rotary has been a strong and continued supporter of LLC every year since 1949 and now sponsors 10-14 students from Muskegon County high schools each year. *We have started something big!*

Muskegon Rotary Board

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