




“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—September 8, 2022, 12-1:30pm
The Lake House - Hybrid
ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 9/15/22 5:15 pm
Bill Loxterman's patio



Jeff Lewis, Director
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 Meredith Smillie, 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 (09/08/22) — Mediation & Restorative Services

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

Myra Dutton

REFLECTOR

Brandon Turnbull Sept 1
 Darlene Collet Sept 8
 Bill Erickson Sept 15

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Jonathan Wilson Sept 9
 Belinda Barbier Sept 13

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

9/8 – Mediation & Restorative Services
 9/15 - Life Leadership Panel

Consider giving an invocation/reflection!
 If you would like to help make our lunches even more special, please email Alan Alpert at fivea@me.com.

Thank you!

President Jane received a handwritten note from the Bluffton/Beachwood Community thanking Rotary for donating to the fitness trail at Beachwood Park.

To watch the recorded 9/1/22 meeting, click the link [here](#).

VISITORS & GUESTS



Demetri Poland, guest of Susan Crain



Jason Piasecki welcomed back Mason and Matt Schlaefer



Marty Sytsema filled in for Todd Jacobs and introduced Amy Moore



Kendall Young and Jonathan Clausing, along with Guidance Counselor Josh Scholma, were our Student Guests from Western Michigan Christian High School

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Two spots left! Rotary/Interact needs a team of 40+ to work on needed local projects that serve our community through United Way Day of Caring on **September 9**. See or email **John Noling** to add your talent to the team.

More Thanks!



Muskegon Rotary serves with three other service clubs to decorate Seaway Drive for five major holidays (Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day) with over 120 flags total between Southern Ave and Mona Lake. Our Rotary section includes 35 flags between Southern and Hackley Aves: flags out at 7 am and in at 6 pm. We also do litter pick up for every holiday. Pictured are volunteers Sue Noling and MHS Interactor Kylee Foster with their litter collection and the symbol of our unity to honor our country. If you would like to serve at the next flag holiday, please see **John Noling**.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Literacy Panel

Panel Members: Melissa Moore, Executive Director – Read Muskegon; Michelle Wahlberg, Literacy Directory from MAISD, Liz Londo, Director of Great Start Muskegon County

Moderated by **Jane Clingman-Scott**

Reporter – *Meredith Smillie*

- 46% of toddlers in Muskegon County are not in preschool and receiving literacy support
- 20% of Muskegon County adults cannot read above 5th grade level
- 60% of Muskegon County adults are unable to read

All of the moderators noted that reading a novel increases all over subject matter literacy and strengthens long term memory, and facilitates understanding of the emotions of others to character development in readers. The emphasis is on fictional novels.

Per Liz, literacy helps establish family bonds, especially when children are sitting on the lap of supportive adults. It also encourages parents to be their children's first teachers. Not only do parents read, but they establish bonds and allows parents and children to interact undistracted.

Michelle noted that access is a key word in literacy. It allows people to access to the world around them; such as navigating and exploring the unknown, can express self through written word, relate to other cultures, research topics, make lists, write letters, read maps and can connect their sense of self development from the characters in books.

“Access” is a key word to literacy.

Melissa noted that her job is helping the greater Muskegon community develop literacy, as 54% of all adults read below a 6th grade level nationwide. Each person has literacy barriers and are very unique in how they learn. Adults can be very resilient in their efforts to learn to read. They develop creative problem-solving skills for navigating everyday life. Many of adults learning to read are full of hope and joy for the accomplishment of overcoming literacy deficits.

Jane asked the question; is there is a silver bullet to solving literacy in our community? Our panelists agreed that as adults we need to talk, sign, laugh and have everyday conversations about the world around them. Make the connections with your young children. Create those connections and bonds.

Michelle noted that she is an early literacy coach and spends her days in the classrooms. There are many coaches located throughout the county and are meeting with teachers and students in the classroom to assist students in growing as avid readers. It is important to have these coaches present in classrooms to assist teachers and students.

Melissa noted that her silver bullet is access. Again, children and families living in high poverty areas do not always have the ability to go somewhere in the community to receive programming. It is important to go to where children and adults reside, and READ Muskegon goes into jails and adult education sites. Adult literacy is different in that adults are learning more how to navigate the real world; job applications, to vote, etc. Working with youth, we are teaching children to learn how to read and really understand how it impacts education.

Our panelists and Jane note that we must support literacy initiatives by donating time, energy and money (and BOOKS) to local agencies in your community. Michelle noted that agencies work very hard to eliminate barriers to literacy, such as transportation, child care, and access to organizations. These things allow



Panel members l to r: Melissa Moore, Michelle Wahlberg, and Liz Londo with President Jane Clingman-Scott

parents to participate in literacy nights and parent teacher conferences, ensuring children have access to an array of book options and genres. Children also need books that they can keep in their home and can read over and over again. Children need a caring adult that stimulates their interest and engages with them about their book. Talk, read, sing makes an impact.

Overcoming barriers, many parents/adults are not comfortable going to their child's school due to embarrassment, poor past experiences and keeps them from being fully engaged in their child's education.

Per Rotary International's most recent magazine-they are hoping to restart the Rotary Literacy Campaign. Melissa hopes we can relaunch the Rotary Literacy Initiative and help Rotarians successfully assist children and adults to gain access to services or navigate to resources. September 16 at COGIC Community Center-Focus on Shared Leadership around literacy-community members and organizations can come to the table and share ideas and suggestions. September 26 at Muskegon Covenant Church are hosting a meet-the-candidates forum to be asked questions around barriers to childhood literacy and adult literacy.



Muskegon High School Rotary Interact wishes to thank all Rotarians and friends who recently donated \$297 worth of bottles and cans going toward funding our upcoming projects this year, including possible motivational speaker(s) for our student body. We are tremendously thankful for everything you do for us.

DeAntae Mayhew, President, MHS Rotary Interact

Interact Insider

Life Leadership Conference Reports



**Aidan Roberson, Junior
Reeths Puffer High School**

"LLC is perhaps the best thing to have happened to me in years. LLC has helped me grow in so many ways that I never knew I could grow in. It has helped me become a better leader, a better speaker, a better musician, and a better friend to those around me. Because of this one conference, I was finally able to expand out of the shell that contained me, and start to realize what I could be.

The strangest thing about LLC was not even knowing about it until weeks prior. Through a string of fortunate events and unlikely ties, I was invited to come here by a man I truly admire and trust with all my heart - Mr. Noling. And through this conference, I was able to meet so many more people, good people, like him. People that resonated with me, who's messages carried a meaning I couldn't find in anyone else's. Messages that everyone should get to hear, about "Flipping Your 20" (thank you, Molly Kennedy!) or about using encouragement to motivate those around you (thank you, Ben Whiting!).

Ask anyone what their favorite part of LLC was, and most will say "the people". I'm no different! Every single day, I find myself thinking about the smiles on other people's faces during those few

days at LLC. I got to be a version of myself that wasn't so scared of socializing, who wasn't afraid to be unapologetically himself, all because I didn't feel scared to do so here. I found out that making new friends wasn't so hard, and I love to wonder what the friends I made are up to nowadays. The people I met and got in touch with were most definitely the highlight of the conference for me.

Every day, I find myself using what I learned from the conference in my life. Whether it be deciding to "get up" instead of "give up", or remembering that we're not always supposed to reach the top, taking the messages learned from LLC and applying them to my life has helped me improve in ways I never thought possible. To this day, I still find myself thinking back to being there, remembering the way the words resonated with me then, and finding they still resonate with me now.

I want to say 'thank you', above all else!"

Note: Muskegon Rotary LLC Committee learned of Aidan Roberson and his talents during the Law Day Speech Contest and invited him to interview for LLC as a result. It turned out to be a good thing!



**Annelise Derrick
Senior, Calvary Christian High School**

"I didn't know anything about Rotary or any of its different branches when I was offered an opportunity to attend the 2022 Life Leadership Conference. I was made aware through my school. A Rotarian came to my school to meet with me and tell me what it would be

like. I thought it sounded like an interesting thing that maybe I could learn something from. I had no idea how much it would affect me and inspire me. Not only was I taught leadership and teamwork skills, but I also made some great friends and had the most fun of my whole summer!

Even though I knew it was a leadership conference, I didn't really know what to expect. Maybe some cheesy motivational speakers, ice breakers, and a few superficial tips? No. When it says "Life Leadership", it means exactly that. I learned so many actual leadership skills to use, not just in positions of authority, but in my everyday life.

One of my favorite lessons was given by Molly Kennedy. She taught us that how we see a situation determines what will become of it. "Flip your 20", shift your paradigm, look at it from a different perspective, however you want to say it. When we focus our energy on positive outcomes, they are much more likely to happen. That is a great lesson for leading a team, an office, or a business, but it's also an amazing way to look at life. Rather than receiving token "leadership" tips, we were presented with real speakers who shared with us and taught us meaningful skills.

One of the things I was most worried about prior to the Life Leadership Conference was how many new people there would be. I was worried that everyone would already know each other or that it would be super awkward, but it wasn't. We had "family groups" that were small groups of 8 or 9 students and an adult. Our group was super close and we spent all of our free time together. We called ourselves the "Determination Nation" and even had our own silly theme music that we played as we walked around campus.

We were assigned a presentation on a leadership trait, but the form of it was left open ended. We made sure

everyone was heard and chose to make a live theater fight. We helped each other, especially those of us who were shy, had a blast, and no one got hurt. I was amazed with how smoothly we worked together and created such a fun environment, while still being productive. We hung out in our free time, ate every meal together, and really got to know each other. We still keep in contact even though one of us is in a different country now.

Our days were packed full of impactful speakers and teaching, but I definitely underestimated the amount of fun I would have. We had free time to hang out with friends and do whatever, but we also had conference-wide games, activities, and simulations. These were extremely fun and creative. Like experienced parents, the leaders also sneaked great lessons into the games, as if they were broccoli. Dangerous Parallel seemed like it wouldn't be any fun, or that we would fail, but it turned out to be a highlight of the conference. The teamwork and cooperation needed to "save the world" was immense, but we did it.

The opportunities and lessons presented to me through this conference and the Rotary Club have excited me and encouraged me to become a better leader in my life now. I'm looking forward to hopefully establishing an Interact Club in my school and maybe becoming a Rotary member myself in the future. The work being done by Rotary here and around the world is inspiring in a time when many people are selfish and wouldn't even be able to think of everything that Rotary is doing. The motto of "Building Future Leaders Today" is truly being carried out here with these amazing people and their care for helping to shape young people into the people that will have the future in their hands."

This Week's Spotlight: Ed Hendrickson



Ed Hendrickson joined Muskegon Rotary in 2000 because he saw a club of service to community and the world and he wanted the comradery of a group like Rotary.

Ed is married with three kids. Since his career in Chemical Engineering at Dow Chemical, his interests include water color painting, violin making and clock repair.

Volunteering as often as he can, Ed is currently Rotary's Sergeant at Arms and that involves meeting preparation and cleanup--the details to make sure each meeting is successful.

He volunteers for Parties in the Park, Grape Escape, wherever help is needed. Ed loves this community and its potential.

See Ed's complete video [here](#).

Muskegon Rotary Board

Jane Clingman-Scott	Ginny Sprague
Tim Arter	Jason Piasecki
Kristi Nagengast	Don Hutchins
Marty Sytsema	Kim Boersema
Jeff Lewis	Asaline Scott
David Ramos	Marty Gerencer

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

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