






“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—Sept 22, 2022, 12-1:30pm

The Delta - Hybrid

ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 9/29/22 5:15 pm

Location TBD



Jeff Lewis, Director
 Marty Sytsema, Director
 Asaline Scott, Director
 David Ramos, Director
 Marty Gerencer, Director
 Lori Weiler, 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 (09/22/22) — Rotary Peace Scholars

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

Tom Palmer

REFLECTOR

Bill Erickson	Sept 15
Alan Alpert	Sept 22
Bill Loxterman	Sept 29
Tom Palmer	Oct 6
Roger Morgenstern	Oct 13

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Chanda Cregg	Sept 23
John Noling	Sept 24
Nancy Crandall	Sept 28

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

9/15 - Life Leadership Panel
 9/22 - Rotary Peace Scholars



September 22 luncheon is at the Delta, not The Lake House

VISITORS & GUESTS



John Noling welcomed Katie Drake, Treasurer of the Life Leadership Conference and District Governor-Elect **Jeff Coil** from Fremont



John also introduced **Rhonda Lamberg**, Past President and District Interact Chair and Life Leadership Co-Director along with her husband **Bob Piacella** from Houghton, MI



Kelly DeVos welcomed **Mary McDonald**



Rob Mathis was joined by his wife, **Reyna**



Joan Schmitt introduced her friend **Ann Emily**

To watch the recorded 9/15/22 meeting, click the link [here](#).



Marty Sytsema introduced Career Tech Center Placement Specialist Sasamon Parker (pictured l to r) along with students Asher (Hospitality and Food Management) and Cara (Criminal Justice)

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

Life Leadership Youth Panel Discussion

Moderated by **Randy Lindquist**

Reporter – *Lori Weiler*

Randy introduced five students from the Life Leadership 2022 Conference, and they shared their takeaways, insights, and special memories. Several of their responses are listed below. To see the entire interview, click here.

Following your experience with the Life Leadership Conference, what is your biggest takeaway?

"The connections I've made, meeting a lot more students my age from other schools as well as other adults. I have gotten to connect with them and that will lead to greater things."

"Speaking about my local Interact club at Mona Shores; before LLC I didn't realize how big the community of Rotary/Interact was; and meeting kids like me passionate about making changes."

"Students talking about their experiences at youth exchange was eye opening. We can be leaders in our own community and outside of the country and move farther, push boundaries."

"Truly unique how every single leader who attended was also someone really easy to bond with."

"Learning different leadership styles that are effective."

The speaker at LLC, Molly Kennedy--what about her message do you think has relevance for Muskegon area students?

"They are facing a lot of struggles. For them to be able to change their perspective may make things feel a bit brighter, open new doors to opportunity."

"It was such a difficult time coming out of the pandemic and Molly Kennedy's message of perseverance and grit and working through the hard times. It stood out because my school was hit very hard by COVID. Very inspiring."

"A lot of what she talks about--changing your perspective, changing your mindset--almost daily I find myself telling myself, 'wait you have to do what Molly Kennedy said.'"

"It was her pushing through her feeling hopeless and realizing there is hope."

"Her communication style is unique; her humor really engages you and connects you. Bringing her to schools and spreading her message. It connected to a lot of teens and mental health struggles today. Having that communication and relationship with an adult you can have talks with and can understand what you're going through is necessary. It was very strong and stuck with me."

Moderator's note: Changing Your Perspective (Molly's message) means a paradigm shift and a pair of dimes = 20 cents so Flip Your Twenty.

What would you tell someone considering attending LLC in the future?

"I was very on the fence because I was not officially a part of my school Rotary. I went because the amazing John Noling reached out. He saw

something in me I didn't see myself and going to the conference helped me realize it. If you are on the fence it will help you better understand yourself and be the leader you want to be."

"I was also on the fence being the only kid at my school to go. I didn't know anybody and had to push myself to go. We all immediately had a connection and anyone who attended will describe it as 'family' through wanting to help one another and wanting to help change our communities."

"I had the privilege to go the year before but that was through Zoom (because of COVID). That conference on Zoom came out and grabbed me so going in I knew it would be good and it was 10 times better (in person)."

"The people I met were amazing and I would have never met them. Glad I went and I was also the only one to go from my school but everyone there was so inviting."

"I would say 'go 100%.' Meeting new people and hearing about their experiences and not only do you grow as your Rotary group but you grow as a person as well. They understand the struggles you have gone through."

What did you learn about Rotary?

"I learned about how international Rotary is and the End Polio campaign. It makes me want to push to go to Rotaract in college and maybe Rotary after college."

"I learned it's a community. In Interact meetings I never really met Rotarians and had maybe a few family members and Mr. Noling, but never have seen it as much as I did at Life Leadership. I learned through projects and things that they donate and organize; they help and it was very inspiring to see the numbers. It's one thing to see numbers but different to see actual change and seeing that is truly incredible and life changing."

"I learned most of what Rotary was from that experience at LLC. Not

knowing before going in and understanding the mission and values gave more weight to it. I used to be someone on the outside looking in and I was now in with Rotary and it felt like I was at home."

"Seeing the branches of Rotary and how they connect to things that I didn't know Rotary was behind like the flags out for Labor Day and I see them all the time but I don't think hm...who put those there? I like seeing the small things I didn't see before."

"How much Rotary does and it is so huge and impactful for so many people that I never thought of before."

For those who have an active Interact club, tell us your current role, plans for this year, and why it's important.

"I am Mona Shores HS Interact club President right now and an individual project for me is trying to get the Molly Kennedy tour. Introducing that mental health aspect into Rotary is something I think is important and also work closely with animals and teaching about that. It has a place in everyone's heart. Reaching and seeing that place in everyone is something that I always thought was cool."

"I am the VP of Muskegon High School Rotary Interact. We are a small group

but working on getting more so we can have a very large group of hard-working people. Right now we are working toward workshop along diatribe we felt was a fit for our community, working on poetry, art, different outlets for mental health. Different things for you to do and not just what's expected of you."

"I am President of Spring Lake High School Interact and bringing Molly Kennedy to our school is a goal. Our big football rivalry is Fruitport so we do Battle of the Bayou and before I joined Interact I didn't realize it was a fundraiser for Helen DeVos Hospital. It's a huge event and there are so many service projects throughout the year. It's a community inside of a community."

"I am 'just a member,' but an active member, and we've adopted a family for Christmas and our big goal is three or four families this year."

What did your club/school learn through the COVID experience and help you grow and lead differently in the future?

"My Interact group wasn't around during COVID. After COVID there was a bit of time with no Interact in Muskegon and working from the ground up has been challenging but

fruitful. We've really been working so hard as individuals and as a group."

"During COVID and shortly after, our school's Interact was not around. COVID hit our school pretty hard and the year after COVID our school's Rotary club had somebody pass away so we could not perform as a club, but this year coming out of COVID we are more resilient than ever. Our club is younger now because we have so many freshmen, so many coming in and wanting to do good things with Rotary."

"Resilience. Community is something I would always use to describe Rotary but in our Interact clubs we all went through a hard year. That sort of feeling like we were by ourselves when we were in our little COVID groups in our houses, but I think that when we got back together again there was a sense of togetherness that we all went through something together. Made community so much easier that we all had in common going through a stretch that we were all alone for so long."

"The drive to do more. We all missed out 1½ year of being active, being a part of something. The drive to volunteer, be with people has significantly increased."



Life Leadership Conference Youth Panel pictured l to r: Aiden Roberson, Senior, Reeths Puffer HS; Kylie Foster, Junior, Muskegon HS; River Creed, Junior, Orchard View HS; Emma Wahlberg, Senior, Spring Lake HS; Abigail Silvas, Junior, Mona Shores HS; Randy Lindquist, Moderator

"In the end it really helped our club grow a lot people. We went from the mentality like 'I have to go' to now 'we get to go' to school and be involved, so a lot of new people."

How can Rotary members better support youth?

"When giving help to Interact groups it can be sometimes quite general rather than be specific to the group/community. Not just mental health struggles but also everyday constantly struggling and battling different things coming at them in their lives. Finding something that specifically fits for them would be great."

"Communicating, project ideas, ways that you can be helpful and be more involved with Interact and Rotary itself. Ways to combine things. I think that's amazing trying to have communications with youth and have adults that we can look up to in Rotary."

Bonus question – what's one thing to say about Mr. Noling and his support of you and your club?

"Mr. Noling has been so great at supporting our club specifically from the ground up and been there every step of the way, pop cans, getting funding for our club. He's a great help and we really appreciate him."

"He met my Principal at a Spring Lake Rotary event and was direct and said 'hey want to help get Molly Kennedy to your school?' and I really appreciate that and I think between both of us we're going to get it done."

"Mr. Noling has been the main push for trying to get Molly Kenned to our school (Reeths Puffer). He's been definitely persistent in the emails. But I really appreciate that he is so forward so persistent and so willing to help us drive where we need to go to reach our goals. He will do that for our club and there's nothing more we could ever ask for."

"Mr. Noling and my mom work together at Orchard View Education which was my push to Rotary. Conversations, talking about me, things I can do within my school, and he introduced me and pushed me to these leadership positions. He said 'why don't you run?' Here I am now, so thank you so much. We were senior-heavy. "

"Communication--he is so good at it. He wants to make sure we do not miss a single thing going on. If it's happening he wants us to be there. Sometimes communication is a struggle. He makes sure we will be there."

This Week's Spotlight: Jon Gale



Jon Gale is Chief of Police for Norton Shores. Jon joined Muskegon Rotary nine years ago and was mentored by Gary Nelund and Mark Meyers. Jon knew after watching the amount of service that they had in the community and different functions they were involved in it was something he needed to also be involved in. Jon's wife Kristen works for the Intermediate School District and they have two daughters, Lauren and Emily. Jon's day-to-day tasks are managing 38 police officers in three divisions – Administration, Road Patrol, and Special Services.

Jon enjoys mentoring kids at the Career Tech Center and also at the college level to help them with their career potentially in criminal justice.

He also enjoys working with the Ride with Pride Program and Sportsmen for Youth. These programs help kids make the right decisions early in life so they're successful later on.

New Member Inductions: Steven Tomczak

Introduced by **Pam Babbitt**



Steve was born in Grand Rapids. As an infant, his father, David, a podiatrist, purchased a Podiatry practice in Muskegon in the early 60's and moved he and his mother, Jane, to Muskegon. Soon after the Tomczak's added four more children.

Steve attended parochial schools and graduated from Muskegon Catholic Central.

Steve has always been a responsible facilitator. At age 13, he created a lawn and snow service business, At 16 he became an ambulance driver and funeral assistant at Balbirnie-Apostle Funeral home and at 17, Vet's Men's Wear.

After graduating from High School, Steve then attended Muskegon Community College, and then Baker College, where he earned an associate degree in accounting. Then to Aquinas College where he earned both a Bachelor of Arts in Business Admin., and a master's in management.

Steve was an active member of the Grand Rapids Jaycees as he continued to build upon the characteristic of self-give and community service.

Steve has been in the facilitating of business all his life.

In 2002, Steve moved to Tampa Florida where he continued his God-given gift as a Sales Engineer for an industrial pump company. He served the community through his church as the director of Servants of Christ, feeding and helping the homeless for 13 years in Ybor City, a suburb of Tampa. Steve also is an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

In 2015 Steve was asked by his mother to return to Muskegon to assist her in care-giving his father. which Steve did until his father's death in November of 2019. Still is still here living and helping his mother, of course, otherwise he'd be back in Tampa.

Steve's an Usher at St. Mary's Catholic Church and a member of the Polish Festival committee.

Steve is currently a Mortgage Loan officer and facilitator of multiple other business here in western Michigan.

Stephanie Tushek

Introduced by **Gary Nelund**



Stephanie is currently an account executive with Lamar Advertising (the Billboard Company). In her role, she works with local companies and individuals along the lakeshore to grow their business via billboard advertising. Previously, Stephanie served as General Manager of Fricano Place. Prior to that, she was the Outreach Manager for AgeWell Services of West Michigan.

Stephanie has served as co-president of the Rotaract Club of Baker College. This is where her love for Rotary and service really started. Her love for service grew as she volunteered locally and was only elevated once she traveled to Honduras

with local Rotary clubs. She has been on staff for the Rotary Life Leadership Conference for seven years.

Born and raised in Muskegon, she graduated from Mona Shores High School and later attended Baker College of Muskegon where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Business. Stephanie's husband, Nick Tushek, is Executive Chef at The Hearthstone in Muskegon. They currently live in North Muskegon with their 2 dogs, Rosie & Lily.

In her free time, she loves spending time with friends and family, traveling, shopping, listening to true crime podcasts, and learning about food.

Robert Landman Celebration of Life



A memorial with light refreshments will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2022, from 2-5 p.m. at Tanglefoot Park Pavilion (312

West Exchange Street in Spring Lake, Michigan), In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity of your choosing. Read the full obituary [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](#):

RIM Reporting Team

Susan Besteman	Lori Weiler
Chip Chipman	Jackie Farrar
Susan Holkeboer	Bill Johanson
Kathy Moore	Roger Morgenstern
Meredith Smillie	

Cleaning Was Never This Much Fun!

Contributed by **John Noling**

Over 45 Interactors from 6 area clubs worked with 10 Rotary and parent volunteers at Irish Fest as "Powder Room Techs" to keep facilities sparkling. A good time was had by all!



We heartily thank Irish Fest and Rotarian and parent volunteers for this great opportunity to earn funds for upcoming Interact Club projects.

Contributed by **Mark Meyers**, WCS Chair, Muskegon Rotary

I'm pleased to provide the attached report on the Gambia project from former North Muskegon HS Interactor Bella Santiago. You'll recall that we granted her \$1,000 toward her \$8,000 project to provide water, solar power and phones to eight remote health clinics to support maternal and child health. And, she knocked it out of the park by raising \$16,000 and expanding the scope of the project to provide needed supplies to the clinics. Not bad for a college junior. 😊

Rotary doing good in the world!

Water and Solar Project in The Gambia: Project Overview

Report by Isabella Santiago Lindsay

Muskegon Rotary and WEHOP,

Thank you so much for your continued support of the solar and water project in The Gambia. As a 2020 North Muskegon High School Alum and someone proud to call West Michigan home, I am deeply appreciative of the support that groups from my hometown of Muskegon were able to provide to this project.

When I arrived in The Gambia early May of 2022 as a student intern at Bwiam General Hospital through Power Up Gambia, my goal to raise \$8,000 and support eight rural communities was set. This \$8,000 was budgeted to provide eight rural community health centers with solar power, water, and phones in order to support maternal and child health at very remote posts – posts that have disturbingly high rates of maternal and neonatal mortality.

I write today with extreme gratitude and excitement as I report that the project ended up bringing in over \$16,000 in donations. The sum of these donations can be attributed to: a Go Fund Me campaign, the Ishan Foundation, Power Up Gambia, Seeds of Change, Muskegon Rotary, Muskegon WEHOP, Spring Lake WEHOP, John and Sue Noling, and North Muskegon High School Interact Club.

As the summer progressed, another University of Pennsylvania student, Asha Patel, joined me in The Gambia. Together, she and I sought to raise the \$8,000. As much more than \$8,000 began to come in, we adjusted our objective. We first prioritized getting water and solar to the eight rural health sites. We then portioned the remainder of the funds for purchasing additional items for the eight rural health posts. Purchased items include: new delivery beds, new floor tiles, new sheets, locks for doors, fans, new bathrooms, a house for a community health worker to live in beside his health post, and other projects/items that community health workers saw fit.

Over the course of three months in The Gambia, four of eight of the sites were fully renovated. The renovations could not have been completed without collaboration from community elders, community men, Bwiam General Hospital administration, Bwiam General Hospital's maintenance team, and other village members. Thanks to funds from our generous donors, we were able to contract workers for more specialized projects, which was supplemented by volunteer work from community members.

As I have wrapped up my summer, the final site renovations are beginning, which Kebba Manneh, CEO of Bwiam General Hospital is leading. Additionally, as I am now back at school, I am happy to report that my colleague Ashna Patel and I, along with the hospital CEO Kebba

Manneh, have created a 501 c(3) non-profit called Mbama, which means “mother” in the local language of Mandinka.

Mbama seeks to raise funds to equip Bwiam General Hospital itself with a proper neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and renovated Maternity Ward. Currently, there is no hospital within a 120km radius equipped with incubators and other vital equipment for neonates, making the addition of a NICU to Bwiam General Hospital imperative. After wrapping up this project, Mbama will seek to develop health infrastructure for facilities that support women and children’s health in other developing countries, with our current sights set on India.

With all of this said, I would like to thank you again for all of your support. Muskegon Rotary and Muskegon WEHOP were the first groups to donate, which enabled the renovation of the two first renovated rural health sites: the Dasilameh and Bambara village health centers.

On the next couple of pages, I have attached before and after photos of the Dasilameh site renovation process, as well as photos of renovation collaboration in Bambara.

Thank you again!

Dasilameh before photos:



This site serves a village of 5,000 residents, many of whom are women of childbearing age and children. As you can see, before renovations, Dasilameh lacked any source of water, electricity, delivery beds, and had holes in the ceiling and roof, accompanied by black mold. This facility was not equipped for antenatal, postnatal, or neonatal care, let alone child births.

Dasilameh after photos:



As you can see, now the Dasilameh site has a new paint job, new corrugated roofing, solar panels on the roof that power lights and a fan inside the delivery room, a new ceiling, a new handwash basin and source of water, and new tiles. In the upper left hand photo, you can also see women waiting to get antenatal checkups and children waiting for wellness checks. This site is now adequate for healthcare delivery.