




“Service Above Self”

Muskegon Rotary in Motion

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



2014-2015
Distinguished Service Citation
Awarded to the Rotary Club of
Muskegon
For their consistently outstanding club newsletter.



District Governor's Citation
Presented to
The Rotary Club of Muskegon
This Citation is awarded with high
appreciation to the members of
The Finest Newsletter
In the District
Awarded this 3rd day of
May 2014
James C. Lister



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



Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916

Next Mtg—October 5, 2023, 12-1:30pm

Delta/Convention Ctr Transnation Title Rm

ReWine Sat Club—1st and 3rd
Thursdays, 5:15 pm



Aaron Maie, Director
Roger Morgenstern, Director
David Ramos, Director
Asaline Scott, Director
Marty Sytsema, Director
Brandon Turnbull, Director
Roger Morgenstern, RIM Photographer
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 (10/5/23) — Muskegon Housing Study

“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

Monica Turnbull

Upcoming & Recent Birthdays

Heidi Sytsema	Oct 11
Ed Hendrickson	Oct 12
Missy Horton	Oct 12
Claire Root-Benson	Oct 14
Jackie Fisher	Oct 16
Chauncy Williams	Oct 16
Myra Dutton	Oct 17

Caring Connections Fund

(Remember to donate \$10 on your birthday for this great cause!)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

Oct 5 - Muskegon Housing Study – AT

THE DELTA Transnation Title Room

Oct 12 - News from the Hill

Oct 19 - Inbound Exchange Students - AT
THE DELTA

Oct 26 - Muskegon County Housing
Commission

Muskegon Rotary Board

Ginny Sprague	Aaron Maie
Tim Arter	Roger Morgenstern
Dave Alexander	David Ramos
Jane Clingman-Scott	Asaline Scott
Kristi Nagengast	Marty Sytsema
Don Hutchins	Brandon Turnbull

Please email Club Board

Members through this [link](#):

Watch the Sept 28 program full
video right [here](#).

VISITORS & GUESTS



Ron Suzek introduces his guest and
Muskegon Area District Library
colleague **Ian Wright**, Lead Librarian for
the Muskegon Heights Branch.



Marty Sytsema introduces our guests
from North Muskegon High School:
From left, Principal **Jenn Schultz** and
students **Allie Freesner** and **CJ Bennett**.

RIM Omission:

On September 21, Muskegon
Rotary celebrated **Mark
Meyers** on becoming a Paul
Harris Fellow Plus 1.
Congratulations, Mark!

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Take Back Muskegon – Starting change through our youth

Speaker: Michelle Tyson

Introduced by: **Kris Collee**

RIM Reporter: **Susan Besteman**

“It’s important for me that my work
with the youth has an everlasting
impact.” Michelle Tyson is changing
lives of many in our community
through love. She came to Muskegon
in 1995 with her three children while
running away from domestic violence.
She started her life born to the foster
care system and adopted out at a
young age as her 14-year-old mother
was in juvenile detention. Because of
this, she knows first-hand what it’s
like to feel like you don’t belong and
always longing to be unconditionally
loved. She vowed never to let her
children feel the way she felt.
Michelle loves children because their
hearts are pure and she believes that
with unconditional love, children
become successful no matter what
backgrounds they come from.



Our passionate presenter Michelle Tyson, who started Take Back Muskegon in 2019, a non-profit focused on young children across Muskegon County, with a focus in Muskegon and Muskegon Heights.

One of her first jobs was in the fast-food industry where she worked with teens, young adults, and adults. In a management role within 3 months, she found every conversation with her staff led to the realization of their need to feel unconditional love. She found she needed to be the mother, sister, auntie, best friend, etc. and felt the fast-food industry was where her mentorship was needed the most. She's had two youth from her mentoring pass away; one from cancer who was 18 years old and the other was a 17-year-old aspiring nurse from a car accident.

"It's important for me that my work with the youth has an everlasting impact." --Michelle Tyson

When COVID hit, God showed her that she was called to mentor to youth in a different way. After a \$500 donation from her daughter and a Google search, she met Jessie Wilde through Kim Sims to get her business going. Michelle wanted to cater to youth with a special focus on those in school who get "tossed to the side" because of their attitudes or learning disabilities. Her dream became reality through the formation of Taking Back Muskegon, a non-profit 501c3

organization that helps kids know they are loved through projects and opportunities in their community. They provide education, recreation, and job developmental skills along with job opportunities and mentorship for youth in Muskegon County. Their mission is "To bring our community together to create a safe space for at-risk teens and giving them skills and resources to become hard-working, responsible and mature leaders."

At the time, the fast-food drive through was not only thriving but tripled its numbers, so Michelle brilliantly started her non-profit with handing out COVID safety kits at three locations: Heritage Landing, Rowan Park, and East Park Manor. She and 15 kids (7 were hers) also were able to help get 100 people registered to vote, held a bike rodeo, did Easter basket giveaways, held a drive-up basketball tournament, coat drives, backpack giveaways, community clean-ups, family game night, Glitter (light up Muskegon Heights), and got the word out so more kids joined. During the summer, their activities included the Community Garden, Trip to the Capitol, Summer Camp, Mentor Visits, Library Visits, The Muskegon Air Show, New Campaign on Gun Violence, and more. They partnered with the housing

commission, City of Muskegon Heights, Kids Food Baskets, Boy Scouts of America, Pathfinders, Muskegon School Districts, and United Way of the Lakeshore. During these partnerships, especially during the clean-ups, Michelle wanted to instill in the kids to take care of their community, they have to give back and be involved. This leadership started a trend that every other weekend, the more members of the community come to help clean up. Michelle said they like to say they set trends, and they try to teach their youth that they are a trend and it's okay to be different. This year, they have grown to 38 kids all out of East Park Manor and the parents have even started to get more engaged too. They are now also working with two colleges that students can come and get volunteer credits to help.

Their goal is to operate a 24-hour drop-in center for youth in the streets for a number to call and a safe place to go even if it's between midnight and 4am. Sometimes those families just need a mediator, according to Michelle, instead of getting the police or DHS involved. They would like to see these centers in every area of Muskegon County that is a high crime area and believe that it takes everyone in the community to make a difference and show all our children

EVENTS

We work continuously in the community to collaborate and show up for events that work to make change, bring awareness and offer our youth opportunities.

Some of our well known events are:

- Covid Kit Giveaways
- Drive-up Basketball Tournament
- Easter Basket Giveaway (annual)
- Coat Drives
- Back Pack Giveaways
- Community Clean Ups
- Family Game Night
- Glitter (Light up Muskegon Heights)

love and affection. Michelle believes, "Without love, you don't have nothing."

If you'd like to help, there are many ways including Like, Follow, & Share their Facebook page, help with fundraising/grants, volunteer, sponsor, transportation help, help with finding an office or building for a drop in center or administrative office, help with volunteering time for a CPA and attorney needs, donating food for the kids, or anything that you can think of as a way to help. Their contact information is: Email: takingbackmuskegon@yahoo.com or takingbackmuskegon@gmail.com

Mobile: (616) 422-7512

Mailing Address: 2505 Howden St,
Muskegon, MI

Member Spotlight: Dr. John Selmon



Dr. John Selmon is the current President of Muskegon Community College who started his second year and thanked all the Rotarians who congratulated him. His background in higher education started at the community college which gave him that vantage point to his future. At that time, he didn't know what he was going to do and if he was going to be successful, but it was at the community college where he learned how to study, be a good student, be a good athlete, and gave him the vision to his future career. Dr. Selmon is proud of Muskegon

Community College and believes it is a jewel here in Muskegon County and is truly the community's college. He also considers that MCC delivers equity and excellence to our community by preparing students to build communities and improve lives. In 2026, they will be celebrating their 100th year and Dr. Selmon invited all to attend.

You can see Dr. Selmon's full spotlight interview [here](#).

New Member Induction: Andrew Zahrt

Sponsored by Carla Flanders

Andrew Zahrt is a lifelong Muskegon resident. Born to Floyd and Chris Zahrt, Andrew is an avid community supporter who learned the value of volunteerism at an early age through United Way's Youth Volunteer Corps and the Muskegon County Museum's Enviroworks programs. He's always had a knack for the arts, performing with the Big Red Marching Band in high school and continuing that passion after high school as the percussion instructor for the band. His love of the arts extended and flourished in community theatre, working with local groups like Central Park Players, The Playhouse at White Lake, The Mighty Mitten Players (his own theatre troupe), and most notably Muskegon Civic Theatre. At MCT, he's done everything from acting, stage managing, lighting, directing, and served as the President of the Board of Directors.

Andrew lends his directorial knowledge to West Michigan Student Showcase every year, offering guidance and artistic feedback to students from all over West Michigan to help foster the artistic vision of students and produce a two-night event with a multitude of different performing styles.



*New member Andrew Zahrt with his sponsor and "birthday buddy" **Carla Flanders***

Andrew also serves as the Production Director on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Irish Music Festival, which just celebrated their 24th year. If you don't know about the festival, it's a 4 day event at Heritage Landing with a mission of producing a world-class music festival that promotes Irish culture and heritage, enhancing the community as a destination through entertainment, tourism, education, and philanthropy. Since 2008, the festival has given back over \$337,000 and 25,000 pounds of food to local food pantries. They also really like to boast that they sell out the Shoreline Inn AND the Delta on a post-Labor Day weekend.

Andrew serves as the Marketing Director for Family Financial Credit Union, and is proud to live in the Nelson Neighborhood with his beautiful wife, Colleen, and his two amazing kids, Tadhg (*like "tiger" without the "r"*) and Magnolia.

RIM Reporting Team

Susan Besteman
Kathy Moore
Meredith Smillie
Jackie Farrar
Roger Morgenstern
Lori Weiler
Roger Morgenstern & Mark Alpher, Photographers
Bill Johanson, Contributor
John Noling, Contributor
Mike Vogas, Contributor



Tickets @ muskegonrotary.org

OCT. 26

5-9pm

Baker College / CIM



**Culinary Delights
& Live Music**



It's coming! Click a box below to volunteer, purchase tickets, or sponsor this amazing event.



VOLUNTEER:

Volunteers for the inaugural Harvest Fest are needed! PLUS, you get a free, limited edition, Harvest Fest T-shirt and FREE entry into the event for volunteering! Click on this box to sign up today!



TICKETS:

Harvest Fest tickets are \$75 and include, a signature Harvest Fest glass, one free drink ticket and unlimited trips to the many gourmet food stations throughout the venue. Cash bar, 50/50 raffle tickets and silent auction also available! Click on this box to get your tickets today!



SPONSOR:

Sponsorship opportunities are still available! Show the community that your company supports local events, student learning and Read Muskegon! Click on this box to learn more!

**You still have questions
about the event?
please contact Carla Flanders
at carla@cmfmarketing.org**



Jim Fisher has never looked better... promoting Harvest Fest and the fresh arrival of yard signs!