






“Service Above Self” Muskegon Rotary in Motion



2014–2015
Distinguished Service Citation
Awarded to the Rotary Club of
Muskegon
For the Consistently Outstanding Club Newsletter




<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>

Jane Clingman-Scott, President
Ginny Sprague, President-Elect
Tim Arter, President Nominee
Jason Piasecki, 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—June 29, 2023, 12-1:30pm

The Lake House

ReWine Sat Club—Next mtg 7/20/23 5:15 pm

Walker's (in the Delta)



Marty Gerencer, Director
Aaron Maiké, Director
Roger Morgenstern, Director
David Ramos, Director
Asaline Scott, Director
Marty Sytsema, Director
Kathy Moore, RIM Reporter
Mark Alpher, RIM Photographer
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 (6/29/23) — Passing the Gavel

“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

Kim Taylor & Lisa Tyler

REFLECTORS

Emily Morgenstern June 29
(Contact Alan Alpert if you can help)

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Marjorie Jones June 24
Susan Besteman July 1
Stephanie Cathey July 2

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

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

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

June 22—Youth Exchange Students Farewell Talks

June 29—Passing the Gavel

July 6 - Muskegon Rotary Grants Committee - History of Muskegon Rotary Foundation grants to area charities.

July 13 - Muskegon Area District Library

July 20 - District Governor's Visit

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
Aaron Maiké	

Please email Club Board

Members through this [link](#):

VISITORS & GUESTS



Dr. John Selmon introduced Dwayne Riley (center) and Tracy McDaniel (left)



Eric Seifert welcomed Denise Montambo



Marquis Childers, Sr. was the guest of Contessa Alexander



Sharlen Naylor and Arena Hart were guests of Julia Rupp

(not pictured) Carrie Haver, Dolly Hanson, Mildred Johnson, Angela Johnson, guests of **Kathy Moore** and **Darlene Collett**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 5 new Member Orientation at Shoreline Inn 8 am
- July 14 MDOT clean-up date – Contact Esther Ricco for details
- If you missed the June 22 meeting, check out the entire program [here](#).
- The Muskegon Rotary Harassment Policy is being published here for your information on pages 7 & 8.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Youth Exchange Students Farewell

Reporter: Kathy Moore

"The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is exposure to different cultures. Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures. This plants the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding." – Rotary District 6290



To start the program, **Kristi Pawlak** shared that the Youth Exchange Program has doubled over the past few years. She reported that interest among local students is growing immensely. Most recently, 52 students signed up to be considered for the program. Muskegon Rotary Club's program is part of the Central States Rotary Youth Exchange program for Inbounds and Outbounds that includes 18 Districts in the Great Lakes area. This year, they touched nine different countries.

Youth Exchange inbound Apichaya (Design) Laorattanakul from Thailand was first to share her experience and bid us farewell. She excitedly reported that she graduated from Reeths-Puffer High School a few weeks ago and is still in awe from all the amazing experiences.

Over the past year, she lived with two host families and attended five conferences – including Life Leadership, which she characterized as "the best conference ever."

Design went to Reeths-Puffer's homecoming dance, prom, football games, and more. She also learned how

to build robotics and tried basketball for the very first time.



She ended with a big "thank you" to the families who hosted her and to Rotary for the opportunity to gain new insight into how people from other cultures view the world.

Next, Youth Exchange inbound Emma Krichbaum from Austria told us that she "feels really lucky" to be here. She said that they only do school work at the schools in her native country, so she really enjoyed the extracurricular activities at North Muskegon High School. She also graduated a couple of weeks ago.



Emma participated in lots of sports, including sideline cheerleading, competitive cheerleading, and track (100 dash, 200 dash, long-jump). She jokingly confessed that she "still don't know how football works." Emma reported that she vacationed at Disney in Florida with her first host family; travelled to Hawaii for a special conference in March and met a lot of other exchange students. And she visited Alabama with her 2nd host family.

Finally, the club's three Youth Exchange outbound students shared their excitement for their upcoming experience abroad, as well as a bit of information about the countries they will be visiting.



Kaydynce VandenBosch (far right) will outbound to Italy. Kylee Foster (far left) will be heading to Brazil. And Jillian Faino (center) is looking forward to her stay in Taiwan. Jillian said that she loves "Hello Kitty" and discovered that there is an abundance of Hello Kitty facilities in the country – even the airport. Best wishes to these 3 outbound students for an eventful and life-changing experience.

Kristi Pawlak returned to the podium to let us know that four Youth Exchange inbound students are approved to come to Muskegon this fall. However, we still need to identify a host family for the last student. If we don't find a host family for the 4th student in time, he will miss out on the opportunity.

Kristi concluded the program by expressing sincere gratitude to the Youth Exchange Committee for their dedication, hard work and time commitment towards these efforts. Current members include: **Joanie Smith, John Noling, "Chip" Chipman, Ammy Seymour, Danielle Risley, Chauncy Williams, Carleigh Wilson, Craig Pirrotta, Casey Ross, and Kristi Pawlak.** Kristi also extended an invitation for others to join this awesome Committee. Please email her at ckpawlak@bex.net if you are interested in joining the committee or know someone who may be willing to host an Inbound Youth Exchange Student.

Paul Harris Fellows

Eric Seifert received a Paul Harris Fellow from **Steve Olsen** who shared these remarks about Eric:

"Eric's entire working career has been about service to others. I had the distinct privilege of bringing him into Rotary years ago, and what I personally feel good about is that he has been a much better Rotarian than I. Over the years, we have seen some Rotarians come and go, but this Rotarian is making this a better service club.

Eric graduated from Mona Shores multiple years ago, received his bachelor degree from The University of Michigan and his masters from GVSU. He began his career in banking at Old Kent Bank, then on to Republic Bank, Muskegon Commerce Bank as Senior VP, then a time at Community Shores as Senior Vice President.



In January 2016, Eric has Left Coast Capital Resources, LLC, a financial intermediary, and co-founded SBA Loan Brokerage Agency, Benchmark Loaner Partners, LLC.

He is currently the administrator for Muskegon Angels, LLC, a group of local investors that can offer capital infusion into worthy projects in Muskegon.

Eric has done many speaking engagements that cover topics such as business exit strategies, whether it is passing a business on to family members or connecting sellers and buyers.

Eric is navigating his senior years with his partner, Denise. Eric has two adult

daughters Erica and Cyndi, stepdaughter Alicia, stepsons Aaron and Dave, and five very active grandchildren.

Eric's passion beyond family consists of epic road trips, cross country train travel, and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Most people Eric's age are retired. Obviously, Eric's work is not work to him. Our own **Jason Piasecki** began a business relationship with Eric in 2005. He received his first business loan through Eric and brokered two business deals with him. One Rotarian helping another Rotarian.

Eric fits well with the Four-Way Test."

Mildred Johnson was introduced by Kathy Moore and Darlene Collett.

"Mildred Johnson is the epitome of 'Service Above Self'.

She has positively impacted thousands of youth and adults, directly and indirectly, through the organizations that she has served, friendships she has made, and contributions she has given.

Mildred taught at Muskegon Public Schools for over 30 years, where she started an annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program at Marquette Elementary School, urging the school board to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and honor it as a holiday. She also served as a long-term advocate for civil rights and equality. Mildred retired in 1994, and continued to serve others through volunteer work all over Muskegon County. Because she loves education, she has been a tutor and test proctor for Muskegon and Muskegon Heights Public Schools, and worked with Hands on Science through the Muskegon Community College (MCC) WINGS program. Because she cares deeply for her community, Mildred served meals for God's Kitchen, volunteers at the James Jackson African American Museum in

Muskegon Heights, and is a member of the Coalition for Community Development, showing children how to plant gardens, make recipes and cook. She has assisted in the selection of families for Habitat for Humanity and worked with the Muskegon Heights Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mildred is a lifetime member of the NAACP and attends New Bethel Baptist Evangelical Ministries, where she serves as a Trustee and Church Mother, sings in the Choir, teaches Sunday School, participates in the Hospital Ministry and organizes the youth program.



Her accolades are many. She is a recipient of the Muskegon Public Schools "Teacher of the Year" award, and the Muskegon Community College "Love In Action" award that honors the unsung heroes in our community. She received a Visiting Scholar Award with Western Michigan University, Certificate of Recognition-Distinguished Educator from the City of Muskegon Heights, and a Special Tribute-Valuable Contribution to African American History from the State of Michigan. In 2018, she received a Woman of Accomplishment Award from the Greater Muskegon Woman's Club, and in 2019, she was presented with the Dr. Martin Luther King Legacy Award at the annual Unity Day Breakfast and also honored as Senior Volunteer of the Year by Governor Whitmer. She was also highlighted as a Community Legacy by the

Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

Mildred received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Secondary Education at Tennessee State University; and continued post-graduate studies at Wayne State University and Western Michigan University.

She was married to the late Louis H. Johnson, Sr. for thirty-two years; and raised three amazing children who all graduated from Muskegon Heights High School and obtained college degrees: daughter Maria Johnson graduated from Michigan State University's School of Engineering; daughter Angela Johnson graduated from Tennessee State University and Western Michigan University in elementary/secondary education and administration; and son Louis Henderson Johnson, Jr. graduated from Michigan State University's School of Engineering.

Thank you, Mildred, for showing love for your community through service above self!"

New Member Induction

Stacey Gomez was welcomed to Muskegon Rotary by **Jim Fisher**.



Stacey is the Executive Director of Community Access Line of the Lakeshore, Inc. C.A.L.L. 211. Stacey began her work in the Information and Referral professional over 21 years ago with Senior Resources of West Michigan before C.A.L.L.211 became an independent 501©3 nonprofit. She held two other positions with the organization before becoming the Executive Director in 2016. In addition to their 211 program serving seven counties,

C.A.L.L. also provides Specialized Information and Assistance and a Telephone Reassurance program for older adults in Muskegon, Oceana and Ottawa counties.

Stacey serves on the Michigan 211 Operating Council. She is the Secretary of the Michigan Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (MI-AIRS) Board and a member of the national Alliance of Information and Referral Systems Accreditation Commission.

Stacey grew up in the Muskegon area and graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor Degree in Sociology with a concentration in social work. She loves anything that has to do with being outside and enjoys walking, hiking and bike riding. She's an avid reader, loves word searches, rom-coms and being with her family. She's also a public radio and PBS nerd. Stacey and her husband have two young adult daughters. Their older daughter is attending graduate school at GVSU and the younger daughter works for Trinity Health and is taking classes at Muskegon Community College.

Highlights from the 2023 Community Mixer

Contributed by **Doug Wood**

The 2023 Community Mixer was held as part of the City of Muskegon Heights "West Michigan Juneteenth Celebration" on Friday June 16, 2023. Special thanks to the over 40 Rotarians who volunteered to serve food, hand out tickets, support the kids' activities, and to represent Muskegon Rotary to our friends in the Muskegon Heights community. Special thanks to Consumers Energy and **Rich Houtteman** for their generous support of the event.

A great time was had as we listened to some great music provided by "Big Daddy Fox", and served nearly 300

meals from Kuntry Cookin', Dannie Lane, and Vern Smith. We were also joined by over 20 nonprofit vendors that handed out souvenirs and information to youth and adults.



Check out Muskegon Rotary's [website](#) for more photos.

Thank you to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for their hard work on making this event a success. We can look forward to making it even better in the future.

Interact Insider

Life Leadership Conference Attendees Share Their Experiences

Contributed by Veer Saini, Mona Shores High School Life Interactor

"Initially hearing about the Life Leadership Conference, I was skeptical about attending. Not knowing if I would enjoy it, I took what I assumed to be a risk and applied anyway. Learning about leadership was just the tip of the iceberg at the conference. From the lecture content and unique backgrounds of staff to the structure of scheduling, and the various Rotary moments from speakers, this conference was truly one of the best experiences of my life.

Specifically, some of the best content provided in this conference flourished from Molly Kennedy. Molly's perfected art of motivational speaking combined with her human experiences, allowed for her to inspire and connect every soul in the conference from total strangers to best friends. Molly's content wasn't the only special thing about the conference.

The staff was absolutely amazing. Each member shared a background story in brief Rotary moments which helped get to know each family leader. A few friends and I really connected with the staff on the first night when we asked if we could DoorDash food later in the evening. Instead of shutting down the idea, the staff expressed their kindness by helping us pioneer DoorDashing food to the Life Leadership Conference.

An activity that impacted me the most was in a breakout room session. A very effective hands-on simulation displayed the differences of a boss vs. a leader. Under the boss's rules, the group was very ineffective. On the other hand, the leader let the group decide what to do themselves, as opposed to being told

what to do. This turned out to be much more effective. Applying this to the real world can be super beneficial, since it sparks creativity.



Veer Saini, Mona Shores High School

Creativity was also practiced in the conference when we brainstormed the different functions of a sponge. Carrying over the concepts from that activity, we were then tasked to do the same for raising money for an Interact club. In the end, we shared the ideas which allows for real world benefits to each school's Interact club.

To tie it all together, one moment that briefly describes the effects of the conference is the first time everyone entered the room. We all took a seat and heard "Sweet Caroline" on the speakers next to our "one hour old" friends. Most, if not everyone, was awkward and thought Molly and Mason were crazy singing and dancing alone. However, after just three days, the awkward thing to do was sit down and watch every student and staff in the room dance and sing along to the same song like they've known each other for years.

North Muskegon Middle School Interact Classes ROCK IT This Year!

Contributed by John Noling

What do 50 North Muskegon Middle School students in two separate Interact classes (not an Interact Club) do when learning about Service Above Self this past year?

Check out their service to others:

- Planting 100+ trees at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve
- Reading to 3rd Graders on Wednesdays
- Removing invasive bittersweet at NM Outdoor Classroom
- Raking two yards for people unable to do so
- Helping to collect 5,000 food items for Mission for Area People
- Half-day volunteering at Animal Rescue Center
- with Bear Brewer raised \$1,000 for Waterwell Trust for clean water
- Helped plant 125 trees at Harbor Dunes County Park for Earth Day
- Raised \$100+ for End Polio Now
- Helped raise \$5000 for Be Here Tomorrow suicide prevention campaign of T-shirts for entire school



- Comprehensive International Country reports assignment and presentations from students
- International Foods Day to explore other cuisines



- Student TED talks on issues of choice
- \$150+ for Ukraine Relief, plus Ethiopia Relief efforts
- Assisted with Library Book Drive

- Pajama Day \$50 fundraiser for Syria/Turkey Earthquake relief
- Leadership Style Activities in class
- Assisted with Citi Boi Food Trucks in North Muskegon

What does it mean to the participants? (P.S. In ninth grade, students may choose to become members of the high school Rotary Interact Club)

From Riley Huff, 8th grade:

"I've learned to put others above myself and that not everything is about you and what you want. Mrs. Risley has really taught us how to step out of our comfort zone and do things we wouldn't typically see ourselves doing. We've accomplished so much this year and I can't wait to see what our North Muskegon Rotary Interact club does next year!"

From Analeigh Weaver, 8th grade:

"Interact has taught me how to work with other people and collaborate better. It's helped with my public speaking and it has taught me what small things I can do to make the world a better place."

CLUB KUDOS to Rotarian, Interact Class Teacher, and Rotary Interact Club Advisor **Danielle Risley** for leading the charge this year! Thank you, Danielle!

ReWine Updates

President Jane Clingman-Scott presented the Tune Up at her last meeting as President of Muskegon Rotary. ReWine dues will be up \$94 per quarter.

Items for discussion included:

- ReWine shirts
- Inviting Interactors and inbound/outbound students to speak at future meetings
- Ideas for fundraising and supporting Interact students

The July 6 meeting has been rescheduled for July 20.

Cheers to Another Successful Seaway Run!



Over 1,530 happy runners this year and a very successful project collaboration with the Muskegon YMCA and Muskegon Rotary Club! Thanks to the project leaders, sponsors, volunteers, and runners who made this all possible! Time to toast a success!

We're Going to have a Blast this Fourth of July!

The City of Muskegon will have a Fourth of July Fireworks Display on July 4 at approximately 10:20 pm. Here are some options:

- Watch from the water by reserving your spot on the Aquastar. Seats sell out quickly.
 - The SS Milwaukee Clipper is hosting a Fourth of July Party and Open House
 - You can also watch from the USS LST393 Veterans Museum
- The White Lake Area Parade is July 4 from Whitehall City Hall to Downtown Montague. More info can be found [here](#).

Check out the details of everything Muskegon County has to offer right [here](#):

RIM Reporting Team

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

Last week's Sockathon quiz:



Leg of Einstein was sported by Bob Scolnik and Gary Nelund stepped up with E.T.



Harassment Policy
Adopted by the Board of Directors
May 9, 2023

Rotary is committed to maintaining an environment that promotes safety, courtesy, dignity, and respect. All Rotary club members and individuals attending or participating in Rotary events or activities have the right to an environment free of harassment, including unwelcome physical contact, advances, or comments.

Rotarians and their guests shall demonstrate good character, integrity, and leadership by fostering a professional environment at club events and activities.

Allegations of unwelcome physical contact, advances, or comments at Rotary events or activities shall be reported to the Club President or any Board Member and shall be reviewed by the Club Board and responded to within a reasonable timeframe. If the offending individual is a member of the club board, he or she is expected to recuse himself or herself from the discussion.

Any allegation of criminal behavior should be referred to local law enforcement.

Failure to adequately address allegations of inappropriate behavior may be referred to the District Governor.

Harassment may include (but is not limited to):

- Unnecessary familiarity such as brushing against another person
- Offensive gestures, staring, ogling, or leering
- Sexual propositions or continual requests or invitations
- Physical contact, such as touching or grabbing
- Displays of sexually graphic material
- Crude or suggestive jokes

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- Unsolicited comments about a person's personal or sex life
- Physical intimidation, such as invading another person's space or blocking the way
- Comments based on gender stereotypes

Harassment may involve adults or children. Anyone, regardless of gender, can be sexually harassed. Disciplinary action may be taken against a member engaging in such conduct.

All Rotary members have a responsibility to:

- Understand what constitutes harassment
- Refrain from this behavior
- Discourage any such behavior of which they become aware

Rotary Club Presidents have a responsibility to:

- Listen and provide support to complainants
- Resolve the matter informally, locally, or
- Refer the matter to the District Governor, if unresolved

The District Governor will address unresolved complaints referred from clubs or members. All inquiries or complaints will be taken seriously, and be dealt with confidentiality and promptly.

This policy aligns with Rotary International and District 6290 Policy

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