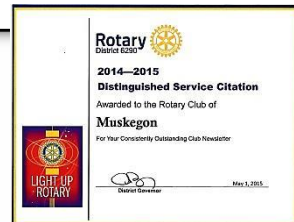


# "Service Above Self" Muskegon Rotary in Motion



<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>

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—July 20, 2023, 12-1:30pm

→ **The Delta**

ReWine Sat Club—Next mtg 7/20/23 5:15 pm  
Walkers (in the Delta)



Aaron Maike, Director  
Roger Morgenstern, Director  
David Ramos, Director  
Asaline Scott, Director  
Marty Sytsema, Director  
Brandon Turnbull, Director  
Mark Alpher, RIM Photographer  
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 (7/20/23) — District Governor's Visit

"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

7/20 Stacey Kennedy & Marjorie Jones  
7/27 Kelsey Rhoda & Marjorie Jones

### REFLECTORS

J.J. Lewis  
(Contact Alan Alpert if you can help)

### NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Morton Kantor Jul 20  
Richard Houtteman Jul 20  
Courtney Porrett Jul 20  
Eric Messing Jul 23  
Ryan Rozycki Jul 23  
Greg VanWoerkom Jul 24  
Don Crandall Jul 27

### [Caring Connections Fund](#)

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

### PROGRAMS / EVENTS

July 13 – Vocational Video Series  
July 20 - District Governor's Visit (at The Delta)  
July 27 -DHHS - Donata Kidd

### Muskegon Rotary Board

Ginny Sprague Aaron Maike  
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](#):

### VISITORS & GUESTS



Phil Bacalia was John Ruppert's guest



Lee Fonstein was the guest of Bob Scolnik



Mike Vogas introduced us to Dakota Hanson



Youth Exchange students Emma Krichbaum, Design Laorattanukul, Kaydynce VandenBosch & Kylee Foster joined Kristi Pawlak

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our July 20, 2023 meeting is at The Delta
- August 18 – Rotary Party in the Park – 120 volunteers needed! Contact **Andrew Cutler** to help
- Harvest Fest is our Rotary fall fundraiser October 26, 2023, tickets are \$65 until September 22 and then go up to \$75. More information is available on our Facebook page and our Rotary website.
- The new member engagement party at the USS Silversides on July 19 from 5:30 to 7:30PM. RSVP to [melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org](mailto:melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org)

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

### This is What I Do

Reporter: Meredith Smillie

Today's program kicked off a vocational video series, hosted by local Rotarians **DJ Hilson, Brianna Scott, Aaron Maike, Ammy Seymour, Emily Morgenstern, Kendrah Robinson, and Randy Lindquist**, who interview men and women employed at various jobs throughout Muskegon County. Each month we interview a young person about their journey to the job they are in. The program is posted to our Muskegon Rotary web site and YouTube Channel. The MAISD is providing support to put the programs to work with local students. This program will show local Rotarians how they can help.

Rotary International celebrates seven areas of services and one is economic and community development. Rotarians will be interviewing local personnel about their careers in Muskegon.

**DJ Hilson** spent time with Dakota Hanson at Eagle Alloy. Dakota is the senior engineer and robotics manager. Dakota supports the production side of Eagle Alloy. He primarily is programming their robotics. Dakota noted he grew up in Muskegon and wanted to remain local. He attended Muskegon Community College and a number of other job training programs. He loves Eagle Alloy and being a part of the Muskegon Community.

**Brianna Scott** interviewed **Contessa Alexander** about her role with Greater Muskegon Economic Development. Contessa noted she helps to connect employers with employees as part of her role. She also works collaboratively to increase opportunities for growth in the employment sector. Contessa shared that we must continue to invest in our young people and their talents to enrich and diversify our workforce.

Brianna Scott noted it is great to ensure that we show students that there are viable employment opportunities in our community. There are many viable post



high school opportunities; including trades, apprenticeships, and college. Brianna and Contessa both noted that as we develop workforce opportunities that we need to have a focus on equal opportunities for black and brown persons. Both indicated that Rotarians are encouraged to invite others to our community and to encourage others to view these videos on You Tube and see what an amazing community we have.



**Aaron Maike and Emily Morgenstern** noted that we have tremendous talent here in the greater Muskegon Community and we are working hard to communicate that there are fantastic career opportunities available throughout the area. There are economic opportunities available in

both the public, private and non-profit sector. Both noted, as did their interviewee's that networking opportunities are also available along the lakeshore, such as an advertising group that meets and help each other with opportunities.

All noted that it is important for Rotarians to give back to the community and to support our youth in determining their passions, gifts and talents. They all spoke about having people in their lives that helped them to develop confidence, connections and tenacity. As Rotarians, we strengthen our community by mentoring youth and young adults, show casing the resources available to support job training and how remaining in Muskegon county grows economic stability.

Want to learn more? Watch the program and interviews [here](#).

Have a great idea for a career nominee? Rotary Members complete and submit a form [here](#).

## New Member Induction

Carla Flanders is a transplant to the Muskegon area, growing up not far away, in Grand Rapids. She is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a BA in Communications and a minor in Environmental Science and Spanish.



*Carla Flanders with her sponsor **Rachel Gorman***

Carla's first introduction to Muskegon was right after college when she worked as an Americorp employee through the MSU Extension office focusing on groundwater education. She was responsible for putting together and teaching educational training sessions in both English and Spanish.

Carla's business area of expertise is Marketing, Event Coordination, and Project Management. She has a passion for community projects and worked as the Marketing Director for the Tulip Time Festival in Holland, before she became the VP of Marketing at the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. Currently, Carla owns and operates CMF Marketing & Events a local company that helps businesses and organization with strategic marketing planning and implementation, project management, and event coordination.

Carla is involved in several community initiatives. She was the Director of the Lakeshore Art Festival for 10 years, growing the festival into a nationally recognized fine art and craft event

and creating a zero-waste green initiative that has been recognized at the state level. She assisted with the launch and management of the initial Watch Muskegon Campaign. Carla is the administrator for the Muskegon Arts & Culture Coalition, a member of the Community Foundation's LEAD Giving Circle, has participated in Coming Together for Racial Understanding Leadership West Michigan and the Livability Lab. She is a Muskegon STAR! and has a certificate in Institutional Organizational Management (IOM).

Carla has also spent many hours volunteering for local organization including... Michigan Irish Music Festival, United Way Day of Caring, Mona Shores Schools, environmental clean-up projects, and more.

Carla's company CMF Marketing & Events helps to produce several local events including the Muskegon Foundations Ambassador Event and Annual Gathering, Agewell Services Heels for Meals & More, and the West Michigan Student Showcase. Carla is also very excited to work with Rotary and help to produce the NEW fall fundraising event, Harvest Fest!

Carla's husband is Jason Flanders. He is a council member for the city of Norton Shores and works in medical sales. She has two sons, one that just finished his first year at Western Michigan University and the other that will be a senior next year and is very active with basketball and lacrosse.

In Carla's spare time, she loves going to concerts, watching her kids play sports, taking her dog Griffin for a walk and planning epic gatherings. Her friends call her the "Julie McCoy" of the group, but you can just call her Carla.

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**Miss something?** Click this link for the [7/13/23](#) meeting video.

## New Paul Harris Fellow

### Jenny Hart Locke

Presented by Bob Scolnik

I have been planning to present this Paul Harris Award for several years. I spoke with the Club's Paul Harris Committee Chair, **Ginny Sprague**, (and it's been so long that Ginny is now the Club President) about my plan, and she has reminded me more times than I can count to schedule this Paul Harris Award. It seemed like I never had the time to write the nomination and then later, my honoree was too busy to attend a meeting and of course, that individual had no idea that I was even thinking about presenting this award to them. But the time has come, and my personal, seriously planned, and dreaded retirement has been here for over 6 months, and I finally sat down and put my thoughts in order.



The highest award in Rotary is the Paul Harris Award. It is given to a Rotarian or a member of the community that has made an outstanding contribution to the community. A request can be made for an individual to be recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow and that person can be a Rotarian or a member of the community who is not a Rotarian. Rotary's overriding thought..." Service Above Self" is the motto adopted by Rotary International and signifies the belief that Rotarians...and hopefully all individuals...would put their duty to help others before their own needs.

Today's awardee is not a Rotarian and fulfills all the qualities expected of our organization and has become a close friend...really, we've become part of each other's families...and we have a remarkable relationship. We met about 13 years ago when she owned the Village Inn restaurant in Fruitport. I was part of a regular Saturday breakfast posse there and somehow; we began to bond. Her life wasn't always easy, and her mom & Dad were divorced when she and her sister were eight & five. Her Mom was bi-polar, and her dad got custody and there were many problems. Her mother, Sue, had bought the Village Inn and it was renamed Suzi's Village Inn. But she struggled with her illness and unexpectedly died in 2004. Today's awardee graduated from the nursing program at MCC and had been a Registered Nurse with Mercy for 6 years. But, after her mother died, she wanted to continue the tradition of the restaurant and bought it in 2005, and left Mercy Hospital. She owned the Village Inn for 15 years and both her sisters worked there. It was a wonderful place and I always felt like it was the TV show "Cheers," where everybody knew your name. It was a real family restaurant and showed how big a heart today's awardee has.

Today's honoree has an exceptionally long history of service above self. Her original career, as a Registered Nurse, plus her strong commitment to her Catholic faith shows that she always wanted to help others. When Father Bob Hart, the Priest at Prince of Peace Church fell ill with cancer, he was at Spectrum Hospital for almost 3 months. When he returned to Muskegon, today's honoree moved into the basement of the Rectory with her two children to care for Father Bob until his death in September 2008. Just months later, her own father was diagnosed with cancer and once again, she and her children moved in with him to provide needed

care until he died in 2010. But she has done so much more for our community. Because of her strong Catholic faith, she has worked on Catholic Central's signature fundraiser, the Rainbow Auction through the years. She has quietly helped many, many people, without publicity when they needed help. Providing food and numerous other things for her restaurant customers and friends and anyone in need.



The work that really inspired me today was her work for the Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore. Before the Club formally opened...and the Board had to raise \$1,000,000 before the national organization would issue our charter... today's honoree held the Club's very first fundraiser, on her own, in the Fall of 2015 at Bella Maria's event center. Next, she hosted a second fundraiser at her home, that she called the Fall Frenzy, complete with a band and her food, which raised thousands for the brand-new club. Then, in 2016, as a new Club Board Member, she agreed to be the Co-Chair of the Great Futures Gala, to be held at my home on Mona Lake, now the signature fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club. I was also very involved in this event in the beginning and can honestly say, her energy, time, enthusiasm, and sheer will to make it a success, is a key reason that this event has become the largest single night fundraising event in Muskegon. She won't give up and has

found many large sponsors, auction items, and helped corral her friends into volunteering, attending, and donating. Plus, her enthusiasm has been contagious and in just the brief history of the event, it has brought in well over \$1.4 Million, thanks in large part to her hard work. There are many others who have worked extremely hard on this event, and it takes a team for such a large event, but it also takes the enthusiasm of volunteers, and she a key piece of that enthusiasm.

So, today's new Paul Harris Fellow is like a daughter to me. She is married to her husband Kurt Kammeraad, and has three children, Haleigh, Brayden, and Kenzie plus a brand-new Grandson, Bodie Richard. Please help me welcome the World's newest Paul Harris Fellow and my BFF, JENNY HART LOCKE!

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### RIM Reporting Team

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



Brandon Turnbull was sworn in this week as a new Muskegon Rotary Director.

## Adopt-A-Highway MDOT Pickup

by Esther Ricco

A special THANK YOU to Rotarians **Michelle Burley, John Noling, Kevin Ricco, and Blake Cramer** for cleaning up the Muskegon Rotary highway stretch on July 14<sup>th</sup>. It was hot, sweaty work but this tough as nails crew hauled 45 bags of trash to the side of the road for MDOT to gather up.

Our final pick up for 2023 has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 23. If you are a Rotarian looking for ways to bond with your fellow members, there is nothing better than picking trash side by side! Conversations range from “What we did on our vacations” to “Can you believe what people toss out their windows” to “I hope I find a \$100 bill!” 😊 Come and join in on the fun!

If you are interested in helping out, please contact **Esther Ricco** at [riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu) and she can add you to her volunteer list and will update those interested as we get closer to the date.



**Did you know.....**  
**As of July 19, 2023,**  
**according to NOAA –**  
**Great Lakes**  
**Environmental Research**  
**Laboratory, the water**  
**temperature of Lake**  
**Michigan near the**  
**surface at the Muskegon**  
**Buoy is 72.5 degrees.**  
**Check out the**  
**Muskegon Buoy station**  
**[here.](#)**

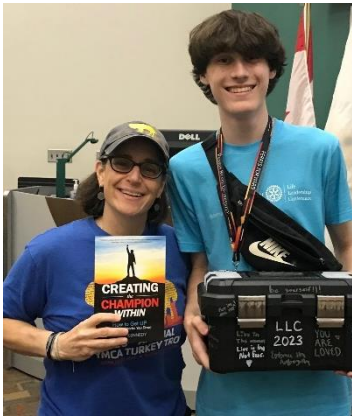
**Now get out there!**

# Interact Insider

## 2023 Life Leadership Conferee of the Year

**Connor Smillie, Mona Shores High  
School, Muskegon Rotary Club**

Contributed by John Noling



*LLC Speaker Molly Kennedy presents Conferee of the Year honors (a Leadership Toolbox) to Connor Smillie at the June 14-17 District 6290 Life Leadership Conference held at Ferris State University. Congratulations Connor for your great contributions at LLC! Editor's note: Connor is the President of Mona Shores Rotary Interact Club for 2023-24 and is the son of proud parents Trent and Meredith Smillie.*

Connor was chosen by his peers for this award. Connor's report to our club follows:

"The Life Leadership Conference was very nice and one of my deepest and strongest moments for me when it comes to my life, not as just a Rotary Interactor, but as a person with their own values and interests. The speakers had a deep impact on me, the food was very delightful, and the walks were very quick and easy, I felt safe throughout the entire campus and felt welcomed by every staff member there (especially Mason; he needs his own family ASAP). As a whole LLC was awesome and I want to send as many future leaders from my school there as possible.

The Dangerous Parallel world affairs conflict simulation and speaker Howard Osterling were amazing. Dangerous Parallel made me feel frustrated but, in a way, I wanted to fix something and be part of that. On the other hand Howard was just such a sweet man. He made me cry because he was such a relatable person even though I'm 67 years younger. I would also like to add that getting a new perspective from beyond the Americas with Zach Noling's message on the world and how it isn't just Democracy and ultra freedom that works for nations, and instead some nations work better in other ways, like China and others. Then, listening to Landon Fortenberry who is going into diplomatic service really persuaded me to go towards that field more and to learn about why nations do what they do considering their history and geography.

LLC was great, but the dorm bed mattresses hurt my back. I also believe that there should be more time for Interactors to tell what they've done and for everyone to pitch in ideas for leadership and change making.



As for the Conferee of the Year honor bestowed on me, I don't know how I fully feel about this besides being amazed. I don't believe I grew the most out of all the conferees there just on being a leader, but according to them I am worthy. This just has been on my mind a lot. I am proud to be acknowledged for this, but I also feel I do not deserve this, maybe a more mature me in a few years but as of now, I am in awe.

All I can really say for how LLC has impacted me is just watch me. I want to surprise the world. I feel more humbled in a way meeting people who have seen more, done more, fought through more, and are more notable. This really gave me a perspective how I need to go chase what my message and story to the world will be."

## Pop Cans Make A Difference!

Contributed by John Noling

July pop can totals redeemed so far by area Rotary Interact Clubs:

Muskegon High	\$338.70
Mona Shores	\$177.90
North Muskegon	\$171.80



Thanks to Rotarians, friends of Rotary, and the Muskegon Yacht Club for generous donations this year. Cans can be brought to Rotary or arranged for pick up. Contact John Noling at 231-670-3740 to arrange.