

# THE FILIBUSTER

Greetings! I am honored to have been selected as the 51st President of the Michigan JCI Senate.

Last year President Wendy Taylor asked us to “Light up your World” which we did with some great programs and socials.

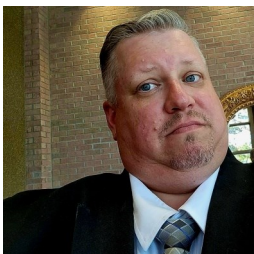


This year I am excited to say “Thanks for the Memories”. We all have those great memories we love to share when we are around all our Senate friends. Some of the memories are good and some maybe not so...sharable. It might have been that 50th Celebration last year or that trip to Delta county we should not talk about... This year I want to encourage everyone to get out and create new memories by not just attending some of the wonderful programs we already have, but consider hosting a social. This could be a trip wine tasting, dinner, or even just a small gathering at the backyard pool or firepit. Make sure to post the information, take pictures to share, and make a bunch of great memories.

I am personally looking forward to attending National fall boards in September, the Ohio Pig Roast in July, and our own Senate BBQ in August, just to name a few. I encourage everyone to get out and attend any of these events and make new friends and memories. After attending the US JCI Senate’s year end convention in St. Louis I am really excited to get this year started. I was able to see some friends from all over the country and meet a ton of new people that welcomed me in like an old friend. They offered words of encouragement and were excited to talk about their state and events that I “shouldn’t miss”. Most importantly everyone reminded me to have FUN on this journey.

This year we already have some great things planned. The annual Senate BBQ, Jeans and Jewels, and the Post Holiday party. We are working on a way to welcome our new Senators and get them the information they need to become acquainted with the Senate and hopefully become active participants along the way. We also want to continue to work on improving our communications to the organization.

We are a group that has many facets. It might be mentorship, events to raise money for important causes, or just social. Whatever you enjoy doing, go out, be active, have fun and remind everyone why we are Senators. This is a special group, and I can’t say thank you enough to have the honor to lead it this year. I look forward to seeing you all soon and Thanks for the Memories!



Tom Quackenbush #78225  
President Michigan JCI Senate 2023-2024

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## From VP Tanya Quackenbush

Greetings and Salutations fellow Senators!

It's a new year and I am honored to be serving as one of your Vice Presidents for a 2nd year.

For those of you that don't know me, I live with my husband Tom, our daughter Taylor and our 3 cats. I keep trying to add another cat to the fold but I keep getting told "No". Maybe I'll be able to sneak another in while Tom is traveling this year. :)

This will be my third year serving the organization on the board, and while I think I am starting to get the hang of it, each year I see how much we struggle communicating to our members about events and overall general information. Luckily we have a fantastic Newsletter Editor, Melissa Greko, #75457 and Webmaster, Dan Moellering, #77898 that both do an amazing job, but, we as a board know that we still need to do better. One of my goals this year is to help figure out how we can do that.

You can reach me at [tanyamwq@gmail.com](mailto:tanyamwq@gmail.com) if you have any questions on the happenings this year or if you have suggestions on how we can make improvements to the organization. As I have told you before, cat pictures are always welcome.

I can't wait to start making new memories with you all.

Tanya Quackenbush #78291  
Vice President

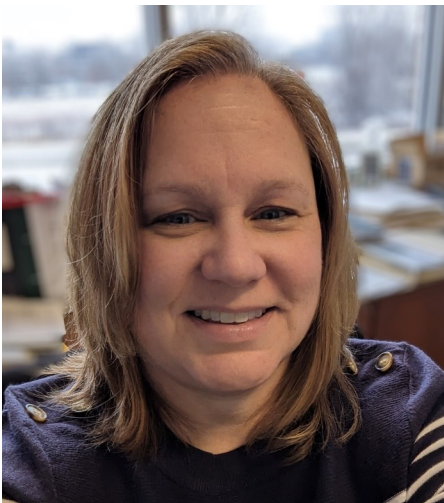


Greetings fellow Senators!

You might know me from my role as your treasurer previously, but this year I'm taking on a new role as one of your vice presidents. I am so excited! Why, might you ask? Well, it means I get to know each of you from a different perspective. Rather than paying attention to whether you are a life member, an annual member, or which method you prefer to send payments, I get to focus on getting to know what interests you most, what projects you love, and which ones you might want to chair. As a vice president, I'm hoping to help chairpersons by opening lines of communication with the board of directors. But first, a little about me.

I grew up in the small farm town of New Lothrop, went to college at Michigan Technological University where I earned my B.S. of Environmental Engineering, then moved to Kansas City for work. After five years of consulting work for the landfill industry and starting on my Master of Project Management, I moved to my now home of Grand Rapids. It's here that I joined the Jaycees. After moving to West Michigan, I continued working for another six years as a consultant for the landfill industry before needing a change. I had finally finished my master's degree (one class at a time) and landed my current job at Zeeland Farm Services, Inc (ZFS) as their environmental manager. After 15 years of service, I am still there. If you are not familiar with our company, you are not alone. While "farm" is in our title, we don't provide services to farmers. We extract the oil out of soybeans, refine the oil to food grade quality, and provide meal/meal for animals.

My home life includes my wonderful daughter who will start fourth grade in the fall. Wow! I feel like it was yesterday that she was starting kindergarten. I have two cats, Allie and Oreo, who always keep me guessing as to which one caused the trouble. I have hobbies like crafting, seeing new places, golfing, reading, and more, but I never find enough time to fit it all in. I did, however, take the leap and became a season ticket holder for Broadway Grand Rapids starting this fall. Let the shows begin!



Now, getting to know me would not be complete without the usual highlights of my Jaycee career. I have served as Grand Rapids chapter president, JCI Michigan training director, treasurer, and vice president. As a Senator, I have been your treasurer and now vice president. Now that you know more about me, I can't wait to find out more about you.

Yours in Discovery,  
Bridgette Rillema, #74269  
Vice President

## From Chaplin Mike Walsh

Michigan Senators,



I am honored to serve as your 2023-24 Chaplain. Our 2022-23 team was amazing and had a great year, taking home some pretty impressive awards nationally. This year, we are hoping to build on that momentum. Even though I am fairly new to being a Senator (February 2023) I am excited to jump in feet first. I don't know everybody, so I'm looking forward to getting to know as many Senators as I can. My goal is to support our members during the good times and the bad, so if there is anything I can do to be of assistance, please reach out to me directly at [mikewalsh313@gmail.com](mailto:mikewalsh313@gmail.com).

It will be my pleasure to serve on the "Thanks for the Memories" team. God willing, we will make some amazing memories this year.

Sending positive thoughts and prayers,  
Michael R. Walsh #81588

## From Treasurer Adam Bonarek

Greetings fellow JCI Senators!

For those of you whom I haven't had the chance to meet yet, please allow me the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Adam Bonarek, Senator #78620 from Redford, and I am your newly elected Michigan JCI Senate Treasurer. I joined the Plymouth chapter in 2002 and joined the Redford chapter in 2011 and have had the privileged honor of serving JCI at all levels of the organization, and now I have the opportunity to serve again alongside all of you. Some of my past roles include JCI MI President, JCI USA National Events Director and Metro Director, JCI International Alumni Relations Committee Chairman and JCI International Vice President as-



signed to the Americas. I am the Chief Financial Officer for Redford Township; I own my own business along with some JCI friends, Coeus Creative Group; I love to sing and try to do so professionally as often as I can; and I absolutely love to travel. I have been to over 60 countries at this point and it is not uncommon for me to be on a plane (often.)

Since this is the first transition to a new treasurer in several years, past treasurer Bridgette and I are still working through the details, and I want to take this opportunity to thank her for the wonderful work she has done over the past several years and her dedication to this role. So I don't have much to report yet, other than two things: one, I was able to attend the Treasurer's training at the US JCI Senate Year End Conference in St. Louis last week which was a great opportunity to meet my fellow treasurers and other senators from around the USA. And two, the next round of dues billing will be going out soon so be on the lookout for that from me.

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming senate events, and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions that I may be able to answer.

Hello Michigan Senators!

I can't believe that I'm once again addressing you fresh off the excitement of a National Convention. Man, did this year fly by or what? I want to thank all the Michigan Senators in attendance in St Louis for making it such an awesome time! If you haven't been to a Regional or National event, I highly suggest giving it a whirl.

Speaking of Nationals, Congratulations to our communication team of Tanya Quackenbush #78291, Melissa Greko #75457, and Dan Moellering #77898 for receiving the Nolan Terrill Memorial Award for Outstanding communications. This team went above and beyond on multiple occasions to make sure that we were well-informed. This win was truly well-deserved.

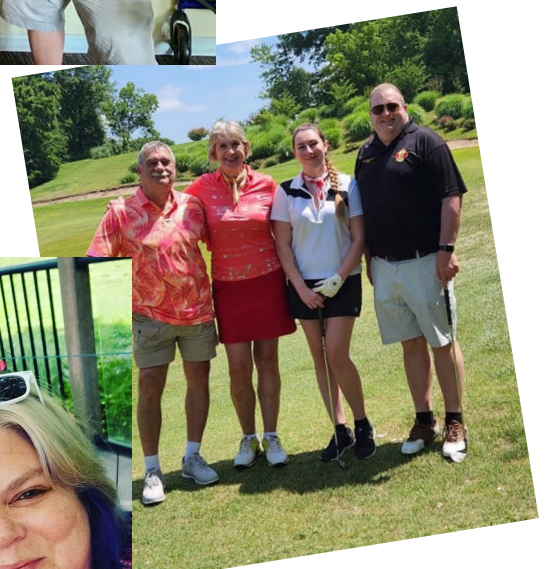
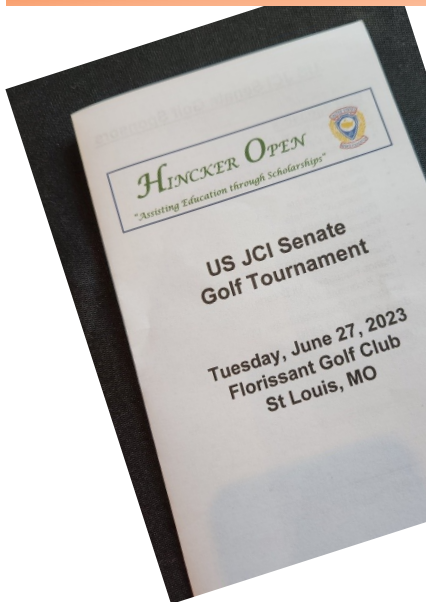
At the beginning of the year I challenged you to Invite a senator you haven't seen lately to come with you to an event. Our activation and retention this year were amazing! I met someone new or saw someone I haven't seen in a long time at almost EVERY event. Secondly, I asked you to share something with our members that makes you happy.

So, I would also like to take a minute to thank all the people who have stepped up to chair projects or be on committees this year. We couldn't have done any of this without you! Don't think that means it's time to rest though, because I know that the board will continue to put emphasis on similar goals in the coming year. Thank you again for the privilege to serve as your President this year. I truly enjoyed the time I spent with each of you. Thank you for all of your love and support. Special shout out to Kim Hubbell #68729, Deb Mogdis #62260, and Jo Ellen Hincker #62635 for simultaneously taking me under their wing and keeping me on my toes. I know that President Tom will be in good hands and I look forward to all that he and his team have in store for us. Now let's get busy. We've got a lot of memories to make this year!!



Wendy Taylor #71712  
2022-2023 MI JCI Senate President  
2023-2024 MI JCI Senate COB

# Member Sightings



Member Sightings



## 2023-2024 Board of Directors

### 51st President

Tom Quackenbush, #78225 | ttquack@gmail.com

### Vice Presidents

Tanya Quackenbush, #78291  
tanyamwq@gmail.com

Bridgette Rillema, #74269  
bridgette.rillema@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Adam Bonarek, #78620  
abonarek@gmail.com

### Secretary

Vette Sutton, #69414  
vette1019@att.net

### Chairman of the Board

Wendy Taylor, #71712 | tdinthed@gmail.com

### Appointed Positions

Special Advisor to the President

Matthew Sernau, #72678  
*mattsernau@yahoo.com*

Chaplain

Mike Walsh, #81588  
*mikewalsh313@gmail.com*

Presidential Advisor

Vette Sutton, #69414  
*vette1019@att.net*

Newsletter Editor

Melissa Greko, #75457  
*melissagreko@gmail.com*

Webmaster

Dan Moellering, #77898  
*dmmoelle@gmail.com*

New Senator Liaison

Jennifer Mansfield, #81578  
*Jennifer@coeuscreativegroup.com*

### Chairpersons

Hospitality Chair

John Badeen, #73089  
*badeenj@gmail.com*

Return the Favor Chair

Mary Burden, #62527  
*robmary90@gmail.com*

Jean and Jewels/Scholarship Chair

Nina Perko-Badeen, #73043  
*ninaperko13@gmail.com;*

First Timers Program Chair

Fay Walsh, #68824  
*faymwalsh1101@gmail.com*

Post-Holiday Party Co-Chairs

Julie Carter, # 51324  
Rich Lindow, #40108



## Upcoming Events

### BBQ and Pool Party

August 5, 2023 | 3:00pm

Perka-deen Pool Bar and Grill

*(aka Nina Perko and John Badeen's house)!*

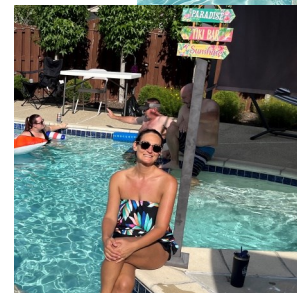
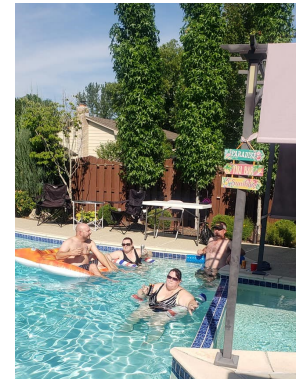
\*\*see Facebook event for address or email Nina  
(ninaperko13@gmail.com) to get the address \*\*

Adults Only

\$15 OR or bring a basket donation/bottles for  
Dish to pass (more info on that later)

RSVP/Join the conversation on Facebook:

<https://fb.me/e/75ceyCBse>



### Jeans & Jewels Gala #6

November 18, 2023 | 6:00pm

St. Mary's Cultural Center

18100 Merriman Road | Livonia, MI

Evening will include dinner, dessert, silent auction, CASINO, other activities,  
Open bar, and FUN! All proceeds will go to support the Michigan JCI Senate  
Scholarship program

Buy your tickets today! <https://tinyurl.com/y5a4c2n5>

JCI Michigan Fall Conference | September 29-October 1, 2023

Otsego Resort | Gaylord, MI



For Upcoming Events - Visit

[www.jcimi.org/events](http://www.jcimi.org/events) or Email [events@jcimi.org](mailto:events@jcimi.org)

# Jeans and Jewels Gala for Scholarship

Hosted by the MI JCI Senate



**November 18, 2023**  
**St. Mary's Cultural Center**  
**18100 Merriman Road**  
**Livonia, MI**  
**6:00pm-12:00am**



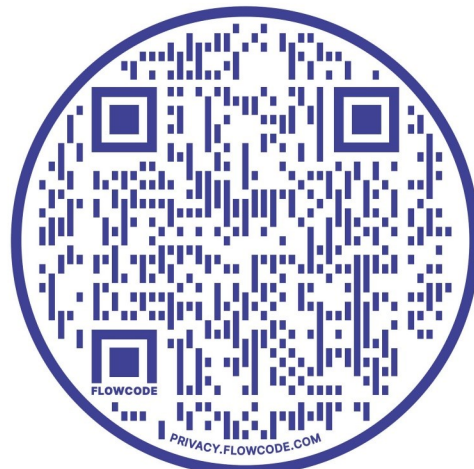
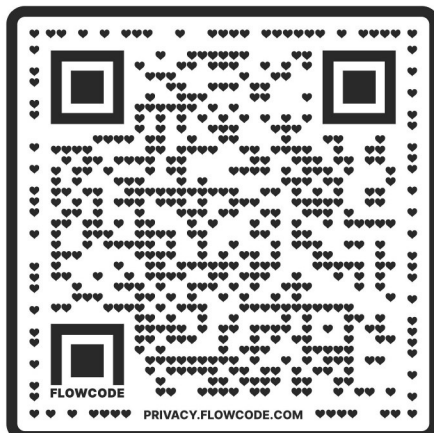
Please join us for the [6th Annual Jeans and Jewels Gala for Scholarship](#). All proceeds will go to support the Michigan JCI Senate Scholarship program.

This is a 'casual' event but with a gala feel so wear your best 'gala casual outfit' and sparkle it up with jewels (guys- this means you too!).  
Be Bold with it.

Evening will include dinner, dessert, silent auction, CASINO, other activities, Open bar, and FUN!

To donate items/sponsor event:

To purchase tickets:



## Welcome New Senators!



Chris Crawford #81702  
Livonia



Melissa (Knitter) Lee  
#81582 Ann Arbor



Carena Townsend, #81160  
Ann Arbor

## We Believe...

### MI JCI Senate Filibuster

The next edition will go out Mid-October and will cover July-Sept activities. If you have photos to share or a story to tell for our next edition, mail them to Melissa Greko (melissagreko@gmail.com) by October 1, 2023

If there is something you liked or think we could do better with this communication please be sure to let us know!

*That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;  
That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;  
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;  
That government should be of laws rather than of men;  
That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;  
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.*

**– C. William Brownfield**