



### President's Message

It's just hot out there. And rainy. We were worried about attendance at our June luncheon since the day started out very stormy and continued on through mid morning. We had made reservations for 75 members and guests and we were concerned that many would not show due to the weather. But boy were we wrong! 88 members showed up in spite of the weather. So I think that means we have become an important part of our members' monthly social calendar, and that is very gratifying.

Our June speaker, April Lott of Directions for Living, was just outstanding. She was vibrant, knowledgeable, engaging and provided a necessary - if deeply disturbing- message about the youth suicide epidemic sweeping our country. I have heard from many in attendance that April was one of the best speakers we have hosted over the years. Her information is included later in the newsletter. I hope many of us will attend the Youth Mental Health First Aid Training sessions offered by the agency. It's a tough topic that continues to touch many of us. This training sounds like an effective way for us to identify suicide warning signs and take steps to intervene.

The Tampa Bay Rays are offering two free game tickets to military veterans and first responders to selected games this year. I had the pleasure of taking my grand daughter to a Rays game in June as part of the program. No strings - just make sure you are registered on Id.me with your DD214 form and then sign up on the Rays website:  
<https://www.mlb.com/rays/tickets/specials/salute-to-service>

We will be sponsoring several member events in the second half of 2023, and a few of them are limited in the number of attendees possible. For that reason, it is very important that each member pay attention to the email blasts and newsletters concerning these events. We will be as fair as possible in selecting the attendees - using a blind selection process - but you must register within the registration timeline to be included in the pool.

It's just hard to believe that half of 2023 is already passed. We are just around the corner from the holiday season, and from our annual leadership election process. We are always looking for new talent to lead this fine organization. Is that you? Nomination instructions and open positions will be detailed in the September newsletter.

Lots of exciting member events are being finalized for the balance of 2023. More on that in the next newsletter.





# First Wednesday Social June 7, 2023



In June, we were back to Banquet Masters for our monthly social. The socials for the rest of the year will be held at Fat Cat Tavern in Largo. These are great events with food, fun and fellowship all around. Al Shields does a great job of hosting the events, handing out door prizes and displaying his amazing sense of humor.



*Richard & Mary Reffelt*



*Carol & Clive Bailey*



*Thom & Deb Dupper*



*John Voissem, Gayle Smith*



*Al Shields, Thom Dupper*



*Shirley & John Bowers,  
Al Shields*



*Teri Godfrey*



*John Schiffgen*



*Sharon Currozza*



*Jack Freeman*



**New MVA Phone # 727.499.8271**  
We have installed a phone in the MVA office for your convenience. The phone will not be answered live. Rather, audio transcriptions of the call will be forwarded to [info@minnregs.com](mailto:info@minnregs.com) for follow-up.







# First Wednesday Social June 7, 2023



*Bob Dalton*



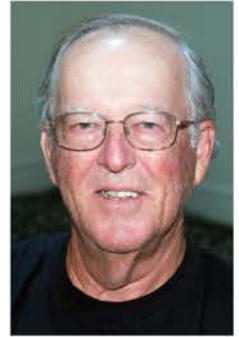
*Jane Willis*



*Dave Donnelly*



*Gerry Sturm*



*Richard Reffelt*



*Vivian O'Dell*



*John Janney*



*Helen Malzahn*



*Jack Ptacek*



*Masako Shannon*



*Jim McCormick*



*Faith Krahrmer*



*Terry Miller*



*Loni Wellington*



*Bob Kay*



*Karyn Klos*



*Brian Martinez*



*Jo Ketring*



*Bonnie Williams*





# First Wednesday Social June 7, 2023



*Marilyn Ruga*



*Larry Harper*



*Shirley Bowers*



*Al Parisi*



*Fran Kay*



*Richard Malzahn*



*Gloria Whitfield*



*Sam Janofsky*



*Sandy Janofsky*



*Larry Trefz*



*Leslie Tuck*



*Howard Howe*



*Stephanie Puffer*



*Jeff Ring*



*Genevieve Urbanski*



*Larry Shannon*



*Carol Janney*



*Jim Acosta*



*Lorraine Wert*



*Dennis Willis*





# Member Events 2023



WED  
JUL 26  
12:10  
PM

**Miami Marlins at Tampa Bay Rays**  
Tropicana Field - Saint Petersburg, FL



When going into Tropicana Field to the baseball game on Wednesday, July 26 at 12:10pm against the Miami Marlins, you will access your ticket in the ballpark app so that it can be scanned. You may download the MLB Ballpark App wherever you get your phone apps. It's important to know that you cannot enter the game without your digital tickets on the MLB Ballpark app. If you have any issues with the app on gameday at the field, find the nearest security person and they will help you sort it out.

MVA members will be there in numbers to cheer for the Tampa Bay Rays as they square off against their sunshine state rivals, the Miami Marlins. Both teams are off to great starts this year, so this game should be very entertaining.

Tropicana Field has some very strict rules about what is allowed inside the stadium on gameday. One (1) sealed plastic water bottle no larger than one liter is allowed for each person entering Tropicana Field. No food or other drink items can be brought in..No backpacks, coolers or bags of any kind larger than 16" x 8" are permitted.

Tropicana Field is cashless so all your purchases must be made via credit card or through the MLB Ballpark app..

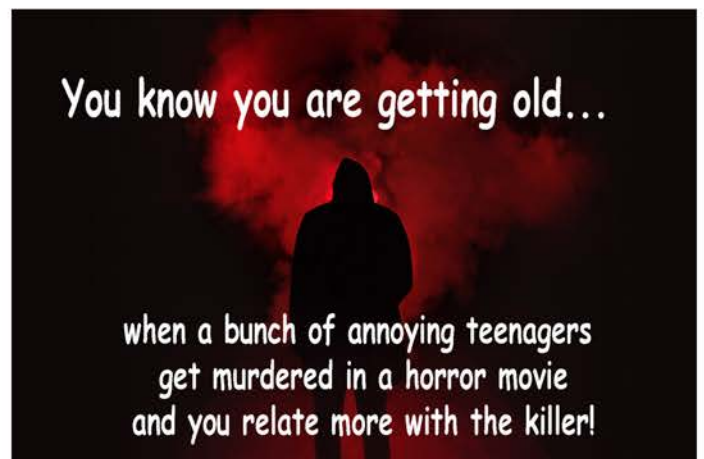
You are on your own for parking and concessions at the game:

<https://www.mlb.com/rays/ballpark/transportation/parking>



Each ticketholder for the game can pick up a Tampa Bay Rays hat at the Redemption Center right around Section 108 where the 1st base food court is. Each ticket holder is required to present the ticket barcode to be scanned in order to pick up the Rays ball cap. Wendy Hugar or Gerry Sturm can accompany you to the Redemption Center if needed.

If you determine that you are not able to attend the game on July 26, please notify Gerry Sturm 727-643-5250 so that she can recall your ticket or tickets so that another member can attend the game.







# Monthly Luncheon June 21



June was bustin' out all over at our June luncheon. It was a day to relive some fond memories from the 1950s. The morning storms could not interfere with 88 loyal members and guests enjoying the day. We welcomed back Shirley Murphy who seems to be recovering nicely from her recent accident in Washington DC. We presented a \$10,000 scholarship award to Destiny Gunn and wished her well as she pursues a degree in forensic psychology at SPC in the fall. We heard from April Lott, president of Directions for Living - a local non-profit that serves families in crisis. We also enjoyed a hand jive from the MVA Solid Gold Dancers. It was a great time all around!



*Carol Janney (scholarship committee chair, Destiny Gunn & Thom Dupper, MVA President*

*April Lott, president & CEO  
Directions for Living.*



*Larry Harper, Genevieve Urbanski,  
Shirley Murphy, Howard Howe*



*Carol Moyer, John Schiffgen,  
Loni Wellington, Jo Keiring*



*Larry Harper, Genevieve Urbanski,  
Ben & Emilie Carter  
Howard Howe, Shirley Murphy,  
Carol & Clive Bailey*



*Shirley & John Bowers*



*Bob & Jan Friend*



*Deb Dupper*







# Monthly Luncheon June 21



*Loni Wellington*



*Sandy & Sam Janofsky*



*Ben & Emilie Carter*



*Brian Martinez*



*Jack (beekeeper)  
Freeman*



*Bonnie Williams*



*Betty Held,  
Deb Dupper*



*Bea & Tom Conner*



*Gayle Smith,  
John Voissem*



*Jane & Dennis Willis*



*Artie Martin*



*Faith Krahrmer*





# Directions for Living - Update

We heard from April Lott, President and CEO of Directions for Living at the June luncheon. April's presentation was very well received and many members have requested information about the Mental Health First Aid courses offered by the agency. Below is the course information.



**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID**  
*TAKE A COURSE. SAVE A LIFE.*

<b>TAKE THE 8.5 HOUR COURSE</b> All Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings are taught by DFL certified instructors. Three hours are self-paced and 5.5 hours are in a classroom. This course includes interactive components, videos, and more.	<b>EARN A 3 YEAR CERTIFICATION</b> Youth Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based research-supported curriculum. Participants who complete the course will earn a Youth Mental Health First Aid Certification, which is valid for three years.	<b>BE THE 1 TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE</b> One in five Americans has a mental illness or substance use disorder, yet many are reluctant to seek help or don't know where to turn for care. Being able to recognize a mental health crisis can literally save someone's life.
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## ABOUT YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches participants age 18+ how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health conditions in youth. The course introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health concerns, builds understanding of their impact and provides an overview of common treatments. It demonstrates how to assess a mental health crisis, select interventions, provide initial help and connect youth to supports.

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR A TRAINING

Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings are being offered by DFL at no cost to organizations and individuals who work with youth in Pinellas County. Participants must register in advance for a training and spots are available on a first-come first-served basis. Register now at [mentalhealthfirstaidpinellas.org](http://mentalhealthfirstaidpinellas.org). Private trainings for your organization or groups of 10-30 participants are encouraged.

## UPCOMING CLASSES

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Jul 7 (Virtual)<br>9am - 2pm | • Sep 18   FSyr<br>9am - 5pm   |
| • Jul 21   FSyr<br>9am - 5pm   | • Nov 3 (Virtual)<br>9am - 2pm |
| • Sep 1 (Virtual)<br>9am - 2pm | • Nov 17   FSyr<br>9am - 5pm   |

## CONTACT

For more information about MHFA, contact Shani Young at [SYoung@DirectionsForLiving.org](mailto:SYoung@DirectionsForLiving.org).



# Upcoming Luncheon Information

## July 19



The July luncheon has something for everyone. This event will be our “salute to veterans” where we ask all our military veterans to come in attire reflecting their service branch. We will take group photos by military branch and publish those in the August newsletter. It will be a great time to recognize and thank all our member veterans.

The entertainment for the luncheon will be magician John Williams. With over 40 years of experience, John Williams has developed a reputation as one of the best magicians in the Tampa Bay area.

He has performed for audiences, of all sizes, across the country and is known for his polished and engaging performance style.



We will collect clothing for homeless women at the July meeting. Underwear, socks and sports bras.

## Sept 20

# POLITIFACT

The Poynter Institute



Just a quick reminder that we will not have a luncheon in August.

For our September luncheon, we are honored to have Katie Sanders, Managing Editor of Politifact, the fact-checking arm of the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg. The Politifact website states: *Fact-checking journalism is the heart of PolitiFact. Our core principles are independence, transparency, fairness, thorough reporting and clear writing. The reason we publish is to give citizens the information they need to govern themselves in a democracy.*

If you thought the 2020 election process was a mess, the upcoming 2024 campaign will present new challenges never before seen. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence-generated visuals and documents, it may become virtually impossible for the casual observer to determine if a photo or quote are real or artificially generated.

Please pass along any questions you would like to ask Katie about Poynter’s fact checking process. (send to [info@minnregs.com](mailto:info@minnregs.com).)





# ...Remember When...



**That was then -**  
*Bob Friend's beautiful, classic 1957 Chevy.*



**This is now -**  
*Bob Friend and his 1957 Chevy replica golf cart.*

Many of us have lived in this area for a good number of years. This feature will remind us of the history that shaped the Tampa Bay area.

*Webb's City, a one-stop department store of sorts that was located in St. Petersburg, Florida, was founded in 1926 by James Earl "Doc" Webb. At its peak Webb's City had 77 departments and covered about ten city blocks. It was considered a forerunner to the modern shopping center. As shopping centers became popular, business dwindled at Webb's City, which closed in 1979.*



*Webb's had a gift shop, hardware store, meat market, beauty salon, travel agency, clothing departments, cafeteria, multiple coffee shops and soda fountains and of course, a drugstore. Webb's City is considered to have introduced the idea of the express checkout lane, for ten or fewer items.*

*Apparently, the famous dancing chicken danced because the floorpad produced a mild electric shock.*







# Happy Birthday from MVA!



- |                                 |                                |                                 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 07-01 Joyce Broadwell           | 07-10 Edward Daniel            | 07-20 Lorraine (Lorrie) Lundeen |
| 07-01 Anthony (Tone) McDonald   | 07-10 C. Johnson               | 07-20 Anne Stewart              |
| 07-02 Bob Broadwell             | 07-10 William Mahoney          | 07-20 Diane Wyatt               |
| 07-02 Joanne Donaldson          | 07-10 Patricia Pilver          | 07-20 Sue Wysocki               |
| 07-02 John Fox                  | 07-11 Steve Buchanan           | 07-21 Emilie Carter             |
| 07-02 Betty Rolfe               | 07-11 Kathy Campolettano       | 07-21 Rose Ebeltoft             |
| 07-02 Margaret Sentowski        | 07-11 Harold Curry             | 07-21 Donald Grinenko           |
| 07-02 Margaret (Bonnie) Swauger | 07-11 Bernard Mohs             | 07-21 Charlotte Schoneman       |
| 07-02 Iris Toelken              | 07-11 William (Bill) Phillips  | 07-22 Norman Allen              |
| 07-03 Thomas Kiernan            | 07-12 Marlyn Daly              | 07-22 Terry Gillenwater         |
| 07-03 Susan McCormick           | 07-12 Phillip Haywood          | 07-22 Alice Lincoln             |
| 07-03 Joyce Pearson             | 07-12 Mary Nelson              | 07-22 Ronald (Ron) Simon        |
| 07-04 Laura Adams               | 07-12 Danielle Rasmussen       | 07-22 Leroy (Lee) Swauger       |
| 07-04 Clarence Chumney          | 07-12 Patsy Rohrs              | 07-23 Elaine Hanna              |
| 07-04 Jon Comeau                | 07-12 Kay Shaw                 | 07-23 Shirley Kanyuck           |
| 07-04 Florence Lancor           | 07-12 Andrea Shields           | 07-23 Diane Martin              |
| 07-04 Marie-Gay Lodge           | 07-13 Sheila Cotner            | 07-23 Keith Shively             |
| 07-04 Richard Mitchell          | 07-13 Darwyn Fortney           | 07-23 Nancy Starry              |
| 07-04 Norman Roffey             | 07-13 Mel (Mr. Mel) Macon      | 07-23 Robert (Bob) Teets        |
| 07-04 Kathleen (Kathy) Samson   | 07-13 Edna Mill                | 07-24 Nancy Griffin             |
| 07-04 Virginia (Ginny) Stewart  | 07-13 Gayle Mohs               | 07-24 Herbert (Herb) Howell     |
| 07-04 Marleen Witte             | 07-14 William Borgelt          | 07-24 Edwin Mccarthy            |
| 07-05 Marjorie Arnold           | 07-14 Lee Dregler              | 07-24 Betty Seavey              |
| 07-05 Helen Hyland              | 07-14 Julia Noah               | 07-25 Colleen Funkhouser        |
| 07-05 Mary Mattingly            | 07-14 Charlotte Page           | 07-25 Helen Matthews            |
| 07-05 Wilford Poe               | 07-14 James Smoot              | 07-25 Francis (Pat) Ostrem      |
| 07-05 Margaret Tripodi          | 07-14 Patricia Vilha           | 07-25 Charles Polivka           |
| 07-05 Sonya Urban               | 07-15 Joan Breslo              | 07-26 Norene Chase              |
| 07-05 Shuh Ying                 | 07-15 Gloria Gerlach           | 07-26 Dorothy Givens            |
| 07-06 Linda Cox                 | 07-15 Rex Moore                | 07-26 Robert Hamilton           |
| 07-06 David (Dave) Donnelly     | 07-15 Fredrick Siwinski        | 07-26 Sally Smith               |
| 07-06 Phyllis Hutcherson        | 07-15 Alice Troy               | 07-26 Donald Tierney            |
| 07-06 Roger Johnson             | 07-16 Arijia Breikss           | 07-27 Steve Blazo               |
| 07-06 Guyla Ross                | 07-16 Opal Gjermundson         | 07-27 Bobbie Busler             |
| 07-06 Charlene Russell          | 07-16 Joseph (Joe) Mancuso     | 07-27 Robert (Bob) Campbell     |
| 07-06 Linda Sigman              | 07-16 Charles Nichols          | 07-27 James (Jim) Edwards       |
| 07-06 Genevieve Urbanski        | 07-16 William Schwitzgebel     | 07-27 Alma Flass                |
| 07-06 Caroline Vrooman          | 07-16 Barbara Whalen           | 07-27 Donna Gibson              |
| 07-06 Raymond (Dave) Watson     | 07-17 Walter (Walt) Faulkner   | 07-27 Sharon (Sherri) Mason     |
| 07-06 Alfreda Young             | 07-17 Betty Hanusek            | 07-27 Donna Steele              |
| 07-07 Delores Clark             | 07-17 Adele Schwier            | 07-28 Dave Currens              |
| 07-07 Doris Markley             | 07-17 Donna Siebel             | 07-28 Carole Kelley             |
| 07-07 Rudolph Oswald            | 07-18 Delphine Barnhill        | 07-28 Andrea Windham            |
| 07-07 Nancy Wieland             | 07-18 Catherine Blick          | 07-30 Sylvia Franklin           |
| 07-08 Gloria Brown              | 07-18 Patricia Debolt          | 07-30 Gerry Graszi              |
| 07-08 Shirley Jeup              | 07-18 Dorothy Keteltas         | 07-30 Bennett Gresham           |
| 07-08 Richard Johnson           | 07-18 Betty Sittloh            | 07-30 Joyce Moesker             |
| 07-08 Mary (Jean) Rashleigh     | 07-18 Winona (Jeannine) Turner | 07-31 Prscilla (Pris) Chase     |
| 07-08 Virginia Reed             | 07-19 Terri Beamer             | 07-31 Becky Danner              |
| 07-08 Shelagh Schock            | 07-19 Shirley Bowers           | 07-31 Rosamond Morell           |
| 07-09 Wanda Beasley             | 07-19 Stephen (Steve) Cole     | 07-31 Gerry Sturm               |
| 07-09 John O'Hare               | 07-19 Edwina Curtis            | 07-31 Eugene Szonntag           |
| 07-09 Keevan Tatlock            | 07-19 Lenora Gilmore           |                                 |
| 07-09 Robert Warth              | 07-20 Lewis (Lou) Alexander    |                                 |
| 07-09 Margaret Wisler           | 07-20 Carl Baum                |                                 |
| 07-09 Walter Zawada             | 07-20 Thomas Briest            |                                 |