

MVA Minnreg Veterans Association February 2024



92 MVA members and guests gathered on January 17 to see the installation of our new leadership and hear an important message from *Stop the Movement*, an organization focused on reducing human trafficking in the area.

President's Message

Our first member events in the new year were rousing successes. 78 MVA members gathered at Fat Cat Tavern in Largo to enjoy fun, fellowship, prizes and good food. Al Shields as host is well worth the price of admission and makes the evening very entertaining.

The January luncheon was attended by 92 MVA members and guests as we welcomed in the new year, installed our new leadership and heard an important message from *Stop the Movement* concerning the human trafficking epidemic infecting our country - and our Tampa Bay area.

We learned that our area is in the top 10 areas in human trafficking in the US, and that the US is the biggest consumer (by far) of human trafficking in the world.



We presented *Stop the Movement* with a contribution of \$5,000 to help with their mission to educate the public on the causes and costs of human trafficking.

As we move into the new year, Wendy Hugar has announced the first set of member events.

February 12 is a bus trip to the *Hard Rock Hotel & Casino* in Tampa. [Click here to register.](#)

March 23 is our annual trip to the Early Bird Dinner Theater for a matinee performance of *"The Underpants"* by Steve Martin. [Click here to register.](#)

We will picnic again this year, this time at Walsingham Park on April 11. Should be a great day of outdoor fun and games. [Click here to register.](#)

All in all, it looks like a great year ahead for the organization.



Upcoming Events Information



Make sure you plan to attend the February 21 luncheon at Banquet Masters. This special “Love” luncheon will celebrate Valentine’s Day with our own version of “The Newlywed Game”, popular in the ‘70s. Ours is called “**The Oldywed Game**” and will be lots of fun. So get out your Valentine’s duds, grab your bestie and meet us when the doors open at 11 am.

The program will be an overview of our efforts in the community in 2024. Please plan to join us for a great fun time!

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Do you have a favorite activity/game/craft that you would like to share with other MVA members? The MVA office is available to host your activities free of charge. You are just limited to the availability of the office space. Dave Hewitt, our office manager, keeps the office well stocked with snacks and beverages for your enjoyment. Currently, the office hosts a bridge club, a Mexican Dominoes group and a ham radio group. Please feel free to contact Dave via email at office@minnregs.com to determine office space availability and scheduling.





Member Events 2024

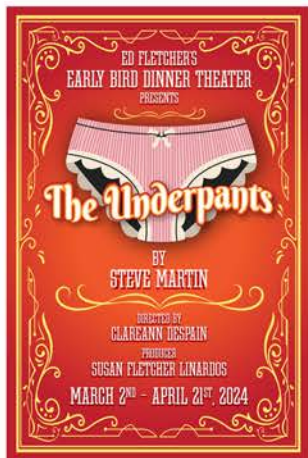


Monday, February 12- Bus transportation to and from the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa. This event is for bus transportation ONLY. Members are on their own for lunch or gambling.

Pickup is at 10:20 am at the Seminole Home Depot 10550 Park Blvd, Seminole, FL 33772.

Bus loads up @ 3 pm for the return to Home Depot. MVA members are free, visitors will be charged \$29.

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Saturday, March 23, 11 am.

Early Bird Dinner Theater -

co-located with Banquet Masters on Ulmerton Rd.

MVA members and guests will enjoy "The Underpants" by Steve Martin.

Seats are limited, so please register ASAP to ensure your place.

Guests will be charged \$55.



Thursday, April 11, 11:30 am. Picnic at Walsingham Park, Shelter 4

12615 102nd Avenue, Seminole.

Our first picnic event was a rousing success, so we will host another picnic at the beautiful Walsingham Park (Shelter 4).

MVA will provide the main course and drinks. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite picnic dish to share.

Please fill out the online reservation form and indicate what you will be bringing.

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Legendary comedian and writer Steve Martin is back with a riotously funny farce. Newly married Louise is bored with her demanding and uptight bureaucrat husband. Then one day at the royal parade, she jumps up on a bench to see the king go by, and oops—wardrobe malfunction!—her bloomers come loose and fall down around her ankles. Her husband is frantic that her faux pas will cost him his job and reputation. But suddenly the room they've been trying to rent out has plenty of takers, and it just might have something to do with...the underpants. Steve Martin brings us a hilarious look at sudden fame and the crazy things people do when they're in the grip of romantic fever. The New York Times calls the play "laugh-out-loud funny!"



First Wednesday Social January 3, 2024



We rang in the new year with an evening filled with fun, laughter, prizes and great food. As always, Al Shields was the perfect host for the 89 MVA members and guests. These events are a great opportunity to get to know other MVA members, reminisce about HI days, have a few refreshments and enjoy a great meal. Here are some scenes from the event.





First Wednesday Social January 3, 2024



Jo Ketring, John Schiffgen



Steve & Margaret Simmons



Teri & Michael Godfrey



Danielle & Andy Rasmussen



Bea & Tom Conner



Patti Marchand, George Suther



Stephanie Puffer, Jack Ptacek



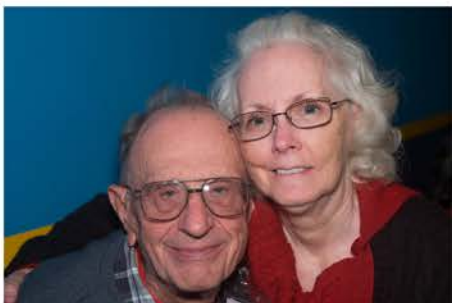
Al & Andrea Shields



Betty Held, Bryan Martinez



Mary & Richard Reffelt



Al & Gail Olsen



Jane & Carl Gonser



First Wednesday Social January 3, 2024



*Larry Trefz, Hendrick Gelerloos,
Bob Dalton*



The "Shirleys," Bowers and Murphy



Dick & Patsy Rohrs



*Larry & Masako
Shannon*



*Leslie Tuck, Betty Held,
Wanda Beasley*



Thom & Deb Dupper



Larry Trefz, Al Parisi



Steve Simmons



Al Shields, Al Parisi, Jeff Ring





First Wednesday Social January 3, 2024



Howard Howe



Loni Wellington



Sam Janofsky



Jody Mason



John Voissem



Nancy Dalton



Wendy Hugar



Sandy Janofsky



Glenn Nicholson



Gloria Whitfield



Artie Martin



First Wednesday Social January 3, 2024



Donna Hansen



Jim Hansen



Marilyn Ruga



Jim Acosta



Vivian O'Dell



Jim McCormick



Leslie Tuck



Larry Harper



Gail Olsen



Bryan Matrinez



Patti Marchand



George Suther



First Wednesday Social January 3, 2024



Mary Reffelt



Helen Malzahn



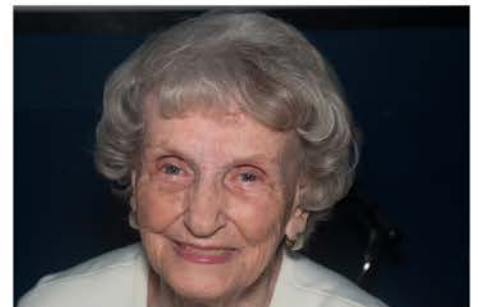
Gayle Smith



Faith Krahmer



Dave Donnelly



Wanda Beasley



Bob Kay



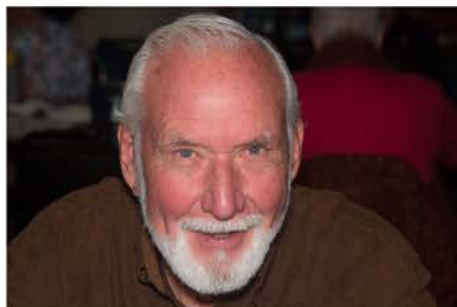
Fran Kay



Dick Malzahn



Carol Bailey



Ron Mason



Bonnie Williams



First Wednesday Social January 3, 2024



John Bowers



Genevieve Urbanski



Pat Keegan



Clive Bailey



Stop the Movement & Save the Dates 2024



Recognize the signs

- Signs of Physical Abuse
- Lack of Nutrition
- Untreated Injuries
- Always accompanied by another person
- Lack of Identification
- Branding
- Numerous occupants in a small residency/Massage parlors
- Locks on doors & windows
- Dependence on "friend" to answer questions
- Fearfulness
- Unaware of date or surroundings

Numbers You Need:

HT Hotline- 888-373-7888

FLDE HT Hotline-800-342-0820

Tampa Bay HT Text line- 'HTTF'
and your tip to 847411

Nat'l HT Text line- 'BEFREE' to 233733

We heard from "Stop the Movement" at our January luncheon. The message was difficult to hear: our Tampa Bay area ranks among the top ten cities in the US for human trafficking. We were asked to pay attention to situations that just don't look right - and report as much as possible to the human trafficking hotline - 888.373.7888. We presented the group with a check for \$5,000 to help them in their efforts to stop human trafficking in the Tampa Bay area.

2024 MVA Meeting Dates (socials, luncheons and staff meetings)

January	3 social, 10 staff meeting, 17 luncheon
February	7 social, 14 staff meeting, 21 luncheon
March	6 social, 13 staff meeting, 20 luncheon
April	3 social, 10 staff meeting, 17 luncheon
May	1 social, 8 staff meeting, 15 luncheon
June	5 social, 12 staff meeting, 19 luncheon
July	3 social, 10 staff meeting, 17 luncheon
August	7 social, 14 staff meeting, no luncheon
September	4 social, 11 staff meeting, 18 luncheon
October	2 social, 9 staff meeting, 16 luncheon
November	6 social, 13 staff meeting, 20 luncheon
December	4 social, 11 staff meeting, 18 holiday luncheon



All socials are held at Fat Cat Tavern 3665 E Bay Dr, Largo. Doors open at 4 pm.

All staff meetings are held at the MVA office, 12467 62nd St. N. #103 in Largo. Start time 2:30 pm.

All luncheons are held at Banquet Masters, 13355 49th St N, Clearwater. Doors open at 11 am.

The MVA Board of Directors usually meets every quarter at the MVA office. Time and Dates TBA



Monthly Luncheon January 17



The January luncheon featured the installation of a new slate of MVA leadership along with a very important message from the Stop the Movement staff. Their presentation cast a spotlight on the issue of human trafficking in the Tampa Bay area. We presented the group with a check for \$5,000 to help them raise awareness of this troubling and dangerous situation.





Monthly Luncheon January 17



A few scenes from our gathering - lots of prizes, a ton of conversation, a compelling presentation and a great lunch!



Monthly Luncheon January 17



Mary Reffelt, Shirley Murphy,
Deb Dupper, Shirley Bowers



AV Guy Randy Kittle, Deb & Thom Dupper



Clive & Carol Bailey, John Delich
Jody & Ron Mason



2024 Board members: Gene Ward, John Schiffgen, Gerry Sturm, Mary Reffelt, Tom Conner, John Bowers, Thom Dupper



Wendy Hugar, Patti Jo Clayton, Barbara Harvey



Howard Howe, Shirley Murphy,
Emilie & Ben Carter



Carol Moyer, Steve Jones, Jo Ketring,
John Schiffgen, Loni Wellington



I want my last words to be,
"I left a million dollars under the..."



People born in the '40s & '50s

have lived in 8-9 decades,
2 centuries & 2 millenia.
We had the best music,
the fastest cars,
drive-ins, soda fountains
& the Mousketeers.
We're not that old,
we're just that cool!



Monthly Luncheon January 17



*Loni Wellington, Bea Conner,
John Schiffgen*



*Mary Reffelt, Shirley Murphy,
Deb Dupper, Shirley Bowers*



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



Brian & Katrina Pershing



Gayle Smith, John Voissem



Betty Morris, Betty Held



Tom Conner, Gloria Hill



Donald & Barbara Brash



Michael & Teri Godfrey



Larry Harper, Genevieve Urbanski



Wendy Hugar, Bryan Martinez



Larry & Jane Willis



Monthly Luncheon January 17



Carol Janney, Gloria Hill



Margaret Simmons, Gloria Whitfield



Deb Dupper, Mary Reffelt



Margaret & Steve Simmons



Jacqueline Morgan, Stephanie Puffer



Dennis & Jane Willis



John & Shirley Bowers



Tom & Bea Conner



Deb & Thom Dupper



Carol Janney receives her "All Star" award



George Suther receives his cash award



There's no limit to what you can accomplish when you are supposed to be doing something else



Monthly Luncheon January 17



Jacqueline Morgan



Hendrick Gelderloos



Wendy Hugar



Bonnie Williams



Bryan Martinez



Gloria Hill



Faith Kraemer





Happy Birthday from MVA!



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 02-01 June Avery | .10 Jeannie Springer | 18 Edith Hackett |
| 02-01 Martha Branks | .11 Lois Christie | 18 Anona Martin |
| 02-01 Jean Clark | .11 Betty Delich | 18 Arthur Oppenheimer |
| 02-01 Jeanette Frazier | .11 Linda Edwins | 18 Edith Therrien |
| 02-01 Chris Janes-Fortney | .11 Brian Howell | 19 Barbara Boyce |
| 02-02 John Cantlay | .11 Guy Kenney | 19 Carol Rice |
| 02-02 Barbara Capuro | .11 Iris La Fave | 20 Lois Hensley |
| 02-02 Marie Chaple | .11 Jan (Jan) Weaver | 20 Harold Larson |
| 02-02 Elizabeth (Betty) Dallaire | .12 Dorothy Bertels | 20 Henry Moses |
| 02-02 Clotilda Malloy | .12 James Buchanan | 20 Linda Tatlock |
| 02-02 Kellie Simpson | .12 Richard Cleary | 21 Robert Denney |
| 02-02 Nina Thomas | .12 Susan Davis | 21 Robert Ferguson |
| 02-03 Ada Bennett | .12 Joseph (Joe) Gariboldi | 21 Lisa Kaposci |
| 02-03 Betty Catlett | .12 Alvin Goodson | 21 Linda Oppenheimer |
| 02-03 Kellie Dreger | .12 Friday Mathews | 21 Marie Reinke |
| 02-04 Marion McIntyre | .12 Janice Menees | 21 David Silvera |
| 02-04 Charles Wyllie | .12 Ann Russell | 22 Kim Heinicka |
| 02-05 James Bruner | .12 Ronald Steiger | 22 Joanne Inman |
| 02-05 Agnes Gabrielson | .12 Mildred Turner | 22 Peter Kau |
| 02-05 Herbert Hirsch | .13 Linda Burnette | 22 Bonnie Ketcham |
| 02-06 Stephen Bongiovanni | .13 Thomas Campolettano | 22 Ralph Marshall |
| 02-06 James Bruce | .13 Edward Felton | 22 Barbara Nugent |
| 02-06 Lou Climo | .13 Valentine (Val) Gersbach | 23 Willard Beamer |
| 02-06 Winifred Harding | .13 Walterine Hubbard | 23 Frank Easton |
| 02-06 Maia Kran | .13 Janet Meranda | 24 Elizabeth Dubiel |
| 02-06 Salonia (Solly) Wendt | .13 Steve Reinsel | 24 Bill McIntire |
| 02-07 Sherry Akins | .13 Marvin Sackett | 24 Max Perez |
| 02-07 Sue Bayly | .13 Jessie Tindol | 24 John Smith |
| 02-07 Caterina (Kathy) Bolliger | .13 Richard Walker | 25 Betty Charie |
| 02-07 Julia Brown | .13 Marcy Wing | 25 Raymond Fennessy |
| 02-07 Ronald Buss | .14 Hazel Ewen | 25 Lucille Formanek |
| 02-07 June Dreger-Parsons | .14 Sherlie Kittelson | 25 Anthony (Tony) Morrison |
| 02-07 Gary Linn | .15 Ben Carter | 26 Elizabeth (Betty) Biting |
| 02-07 Lee Silverstein | .15 Janis (Jan) Friend | 26 James Domke |
| 02-07 Richard Valentine | .15 Hans Knight | 26 Speros Georgiou |
| 02-08 Bonnie Williams | .15 Charlotte Melcher | 26 Marilyn Lovejoy |
| 02-09 Margarite Buchanan | .15 Stanley Soroka | 26 Clemmie Preyer |
| 02-09 Julia Chamberlin | .16 Sarah (Sally) Berthy | 26 Richard (Dick) Smith |
| 02-09 Suzanne (Sue) Francis | .16 Barbara Caldwell | 27 Alan Graff |
| 02-09 Salithiel Thomas | .16 Carolyn Dixon | 27 Patricia (Pat) Stone |
| 02-10 Kathy Annand | .16 Martha (Jane) Tisdell-Willis | 28 Robert Almer |
| 02-10 Thomas Fennell | .16 Elizabeth Wienke | 28 Mary Cooper |
| 02-10 Sylvia Ferriter | .17 Phyllis Balzart | 28 Joseph Kunz |
| 02-10 Nancy Hall | .17 Bill Heubaum | 28 Helen Raffles |
| 02-10 Willie James | .17 George Macilroy | 28 Michael (Mike) Siebel |
| 02-10 Roxanne Lindquist | .17 Joseph Niklas | 29 Richard Loring |
| 02-10 Helen Peters | .17 Jane Woody | |