



President's Message

We are all saddened by the death of John Janney on October 24 from a staph infection. John has been an important part of this organization for many years. His smile and energy will be sorely missed. A memorial service for John is set for 2 pm, Saturday, November 4 in the chapel of the Student Center of Calvary Church, 150 S McMullen Booth Rd, Clearwater. A reception will follow.

On a happier note, we had a great social and luncheon in October. The Halloween costume party was a scary success with many members appearing in costume. Betty Held, Bryan and Neal Martinez won the best costume awards.

We continue with a dynamic program of member activities to wrap up the year.

The November luncheon will feature Lenora Spence, Consumer Advocate, Division of Consumer Services, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. She will bring us up-to-date on the current rash of senior scams and what we can do to minimize the damage they cause. A tasty Thanksgiving meal will be served along with some holiday cheer! Register now at <https://form.jotform.com/232746028488162> We will elect our 2024 leadership at the November luncheon.

The Fall MVA Golf tournament is set for Thursday, November 9 at Lake Seminole Country Club in Seminole. Check-in time is 3:30 pm. A nice buffet will follow the best ball tournament. There is still time to register yourself or your team of four for this event. <https://form.jotform.com/232325960967162> MVA members play free. Guests are welcome with a charge of \$25.

We are planning a good old fashioned Christmas party as our December luncheon on December 20 at Banquet Masters. Leading up to that, we want to share some of our memories of family holiday traditions from our past. Please share some holiday memory joy by filling out the online form: <https://form.jotform.com/232696491056060>



2024 MVA Leadership Elections




The nominations are closed without incident and the election process is now set.

At the November 15 luncheon, Vivian will hand out paper ballots to all active (dues paid) members. These ballots will have two voting areas - Board of Directors and Officers.

Due to by-law changes, we now have 6 open board positions. Eight members have been nominated for the 6 open positions, and all have agreed to serve if elected. **On the ballot, members will be asked to vote for up to 6 nominees. Ballots with more than 6 votes will not be counted.** Members may vote for any number of nominees, but not more than 6.

The 4 top vote getters will serve 2-year terms. The next two vote getters will serve a 1-year terms. This will be the only such election. In coming years, either 4 or 5 board positions will be up for election, ensuring a continuity of leadership in the board.

The slate of officers is running unopposed and will serve again in 2024.


2024 Leadership Ballot

Board of Directors (Vote for up to six (6))

- Clive Bailey
- John Bowers
- Bryan Martinez
- Mary Reffelt
- John Schiffgen
- Gerry Sturm
- Gene Ward
- Mark Wolf

Officers (all are unopposed and will serve again in 2024)

- President - Thom Dupper
- Executive Vice President- Al Shields
- Vice President Community Service - Dr. Gloria Hill
- Vice President Member Activities - Wendy Hugar
- Office Manager - Dave Hewitt

Sample



Holiday Traditions



I come from a very interesting family...some would say dysfunctional, but I believe all families are a bit dysfunctional. The holidays magnified the flaws and yet, strangely calmed them as well. I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio in the early 1950s. Many years we did have a white Christmas - a time of absolute wonder as we stared out our second-floor windows at an overnight snowfall that blanketed everything in the neighborhood. There was no 24 hours of "Christmas Story" streaming on the TV. We were living out our own version of that movie. Side note - the outdoor scenes at the start of that movie are of downtown Cleveland, even though the story takes place in Indiana. So each time I watch the movie (and I am absolutely Ralphie) I am taken back to my youth in the city we lovingly call "the mistake on the lake."



The enormous Christmas tree inside the Sterling Linder Davis department store in downtown Cleveland circa 1954.

Back then, there was no Amazon to drop parcels at your door. We had some large department stores, mostly in the downtown area. (Malls were still a bit off.) One of those - Sterling Linder Davis - was transformed into a Christmas wonderland featuring a giant Christmas tree that filled the formidable foyer. It was an absolute wonder and the highlight of our annual trip in our 1954 Plymouth station wagon to the downtown wonderland. I can remember standing at the base of this enormous, live tree and feeling my heart jump start the holiday spirit. Santa was also a fixture at SLD during the season, and like Ralphie, I was torn between telling Santa what I wanted (not a Red Ryder Carbine - You'll shoot your eye out, kid!) and the stark terror of the whole surreal scene.

This downtown odyssey included our annual visit to the Nela Park holiday light show. Nela Park is the first industrial park in the world, and was the site of most of the lighting breakthroughs of the last century. During the Christmas season, visitors were allowed to drive through the outdoor park decorated with over one million holiday lights. Talk about a winter wonderland! Nela Park and Sterling Linder Davis are imprinted on my memory even to this day.

by Thom Dupper

The holiday season is fast approaching and we want to relive some of your favorite holiday traditions and memories. If you have holiday traditions or memories you would like to share, please fill out the online form:
<https://form.jotform.com/232696491056060>





First Wednesday Social October 4, 2023



These Wednesday night socials are big hits - well attended, loaded with prizes and great conversation, and a dose of your host, Al Shields. The menu at Fat Cat Tavern provides a wide variety of goodies and the wait help is top notch. If you are not a Social regular, give one a try and you will be hooked!



Steve & Margaret Simmons



Neal & Bryan Martinez



The Shirleys - Bowers, Murphy



Bea & Tom Conner



Dennis & Jane Willis



Donna & Jim Hansen



Richard & Mary Reffelt



Al & Andrea Shields



Thom & Deb Dupper



First Wednesday Social October 4, 2023



Genevieve Urbanski



Larry Harper



Shirley Bowers



Howard Howe



Carol Bailey



Bob Dalton



Mary Reffelt



Jim McCormick



Gloria Whitfield



Larry Trefz



Jerry Dangler



Clive Bailey



Al Olsen



Bonnie Williams





First Wednesday Social October 4, 2023



Jo Ketring



Al Parisi



Pat Keegan



Jim Acosta



Wendy Hugar



John Voissem



Masako Shannon



Michael Godfrey



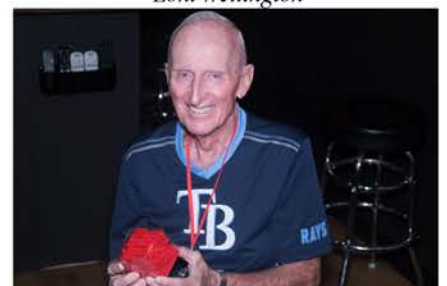
Loni Wellington



Bob Kay



Vivian O'Dell



John Bowers



Marge Lynch

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 for follow-up.



John Schiffgen



First Wednesday Social October 4, 2023



Darrell Schreiber



Shirley Murphy



Dave Donnelly



Lorraine Wert



Scott Webber



Fran Kay



Larry Shannon



Deb Dupper



Dick Malzahn



Gayle Smith



Artie Martin



Marilyn Ruga



Thom Dupper





Upcoming Events Information



We want to honor the commitment and memory of the Ron Rasmussen who led the MVA participation in the Salvation Army bell ringers at Christmas time. Clive and Carol Bailey have graciously agreed to carry on that legacy moving forward. The details have been set, and the Baileys need volunteers to work one-hour shifts. The 2023 information is below:

Location: Publix-Gulf To Bay | 525 S Belcher Rd | Clearwater FL| 33764
(Gulf-to-Bay Plaza)
Date: December 07, 2023
Time: 10:00AM- 8:00PM

We will have sign-up sheets at the November luncheon. Let's keep the memory of Ron alive as we continue on with his holiday legacy.



Marty Martinez, Brian Martinez, Bill Axley, Al Shields

The Fall MVA Golf Scramble is set for Thursday, November 9 at Lake Seminole Country Club in Seminole. Teams of four will compete in the best ball event, followed by a nice dinner and awards for the day's play.

The winners from the April tournament (pictured at left) are looking to defend their titles - and invite you to join them for an afternoon of fun on the beautiful links at Seminole Lake.



Jane Gonser, Pat Keegan, Betty Held, Lorraine Wert

Participants will gather at 3:30 and tee off at 4 pm. All active MVA members are eligible to play at no cost. The visitor (ringer) fee is \$25.

These golf tournaments have been a fixture of the MVA for many, many years. Teams of four and individuals looking for a team can register online: <https://form.jotform.com/232325960967162>

Monthly Socials
November 1
December 6
Save the Date
All held at Fat Cat Tavern in Largo. Doors open at 4

Monthly Luncheons
October 18
November 15
All held at Banquet Masters in Largo. Doors open at 11 am

Member Events
November 9 - golf tourney
December 7 - Salvation Army bells
December 20 - Christmas party



MVA in the Community 2023



Want to get involved in the Tampa Bay community during this holiday season? Here's the easiest way to do that - and make a significant contribution to families in need in our communities. The following items can be brought to the November luncheon. These are the most requested items for people with food insecurity. A few notes - don't bring coffee K-cups - they need individual coffee singles that can mix with a cup of hot water. One convenient way to do this is to watch for BOGO deals at your favorite store. Buy one for yourself and bring the other to the luncheon.

Let's fill up one table (at least) for those in our communities who are far less fortunate. God bless us every one!

November 2023 Member Contributions Needed

- Boxed Milk*



- Cooking Oil
- Tea Bags and Coffee Singles*



- Sugar and flour
- Tuna and crackers.....



- Peanut butter and jelly
- Cake mix and frosting
- Dishwashing detergent*
- Feminine hygiene products*
- Spices including salt and pepper



As I have grown older,
I have learned that
pleasing everyone is
impossible.
But pissing everyone off
is a piece of cake!



So I can't bring a stick
in the house...
but you can bring in
a whole tree?





Monthly Luncheon October 18, 2023



Betty Held, Mary Reffelt, Deb Dupper



Ben & Emilie Carter, Carol & Clive Bailey



Marge Lynch, Pat Keegan,
Bonnie Williams, Marilyn Ruga



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



Bryan Martinez, Betty Held, Neal Martinez



Thom Dupper, Loni Wellington,
Howard Howe



Deb Dupper, Bryan Martinez



Loni Wellington, John Schiffgen,
Jo Ketring



Steve & Margaret Simmons



Deb Dupper, Mary Reffelt, Betty Held



Betty Held, Richard & Mary Reffelt,
Deb Dupper



Monthly Luncheon October 18, 2023



Deb Dupper, Betty Held



Gayle Smith, John Voissem



Bea & Tom Conner



Shirley Murphy, Bev Whitely



Patti Jo Clayton, Wendy Hugar



Deb Dupper, Neal Martinez



Mary Reffelt, Deb Dupper



Larry & Masako Shannon



Barb Pothier, Jacqueline Morgan



Faith Kraemer, John Bowers



Monthly Luncheon October 18, 2023



Gloria Hill, Nico Meola (guest speaker)



Thom & Deb Dupper



Neal & Bryan Martinez



Gloria Whitfield



Artie Martin



Dr. Gloria Hill



John Bowers



Wendy Hugar



Hendrik Gelderloos



Patti Jo Clayton



Bryan Martinez



Monthly Luncheon October 18, 2023



Deb Dupper



Dave (Man in Black) Donnelly



Dr. Gloria Hill



Dr. Gloria Hill, Nico Meola



Jacqueline Morgan



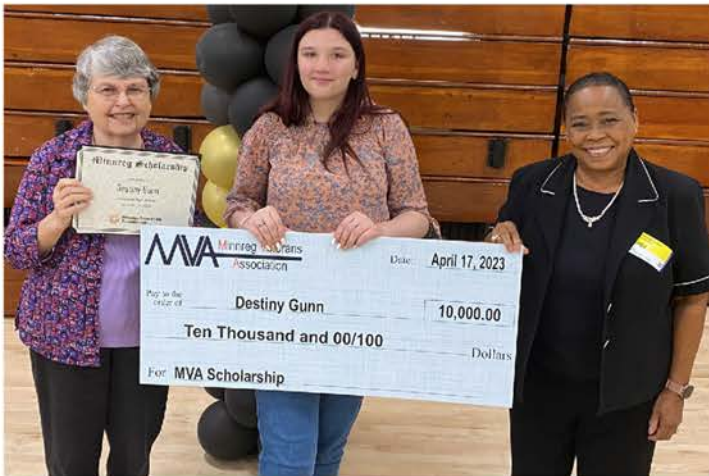


MVA in the Community 2023



The following pages are a recap of MVA’s community involvement in 2023. We will add more to the story as we continue to interact with the community during the holiday season. This was the presentation that Gloria Hill made at the October luncheon.

College Scholarships



This program, in partnership with the Pinellas Education Foundation, is focused on awarding funds to a worthy student who may not have other scholarship opportunities. The \$10,000 grant is paid out over 4 years at \$2,500 per year. To qualify, Pinellas County high school seniors must have a solid 3.0 - 3.5 grade point average while bring involved in extracurricular activities volunteering in the community and holding down a part-time job. The grant is intended for a well-rounded student who will attend a Florida university or college pursuing a technical degree. The 2023 scholarship recipient is Destiny Gunn of Lakewood High School.

MVA in the Community - iPads for Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School



In efforts to enhance the STEM program throughout the Pinellas County Schools, MVA awarded three iPad Mini tablets to their Gifted Program. This will not only enhance the student learning but also interdepartmental teacher collaboration.

Pictured from left: Dr Gloria Hill, VP Community Affairs, MVA; Ija Hawthorne, Principal, Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School; Lisa Ohlemann, Gifted Program Teacher, Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School; Gerry Sturm, MVA Volunteer School Coordinator.



MVA in the Community 2023



High School Partnership

MVA purchased and donated two 3D printers to Osceola Fundamental High School. All Osceola engineering students who complete the engineering program and pass the test receive industry-standard software certification. The school's challenge was providing hands-on practice because the school had only one 3D printer. The older machine sometimes took hours to print a single design. With as many as 20 students in one class, that caused a considerable backup waiting for results.



Middle School Partnerships

In May, we surprised teachers at Tyrone Middle School with two Kuerig coffee makers and all the fixings that make a great cup of coffee. The pots were placed in the Teacher's Lounge and are being used by over 100 faculty and staff members at our partner school.



MVA in the Community 2023



Community Partnerships



Angels Against Abuse

Each year, the MVA seeks out community agencies that are providing necessary services to the Tampa Bay community. The focus is on elderly, homeless, veterans and children. The goal is to identify underfunded community resources who are working on the front lines of need in our communities.

In 2022, MVA supported Angels Against Abuse (<https://www.angelsagainstabuse.org/>) with a total grant of \$8,000.

Ready for Life



At the September luncheon, we heard from Michelle Walag of Ready for Life, a local non-profit that provides various services to children aging out of the foster care system. MVA presented the organization with a \$6,000 contribution to support their educational, employment and lifelong support services.



MVA in the Community 2023



Children's Cancer Center



In March, Nico Meola made a presentation about the work of the Children's Cancer Center, providing support to children in the Tampa Bay area battling cancer. The MVA presented Nico with a check for \$6,000 to help with their support activities.

The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg

We were proud to award the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg a check for \$2,000 at the May luncheon. The Literacy Council's vision is an educated community of lifelong learners who are well prepared to meet the challenges of the economy and society in general. Without the ability to use written and digital information in the world around them, individuals are unable to help themselves, their families, friends and colleagues. We believe that the ability to read is an essential element of an enriched and fulfilled life.





MVA in the Community 2023



Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School

"Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support Project" at Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School. This initiative lets students collect points via positive behavior that then can be used to get school supplies or snacks.

From left to right: Dr Gloria Hill/MVA VP Community Affairs, Lja Hawthorne/Principal, Lisa Ohlemann/Gifted Teacher, Gerry Sturm/MVA Volunteer.



In years past, the Honeywell Retirees Club (HRC) hosted senior Christmas dinners at the Minnreg Hall for residents of local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The pandemic changed all that in a big way. No one could leave. No one could visit. MVA VP of Community Service, Gloria Hill, found a way to reach out to the shut-in seniors with gift baskets to brighten their holidays.



MVA in the Community 2023



Member Contributions



These food items were donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Seminole to help the food insecure in the local community



This table of toys brightened the holidays of active duty military members who struggle to make ends meet in today's economy.

Member Contributions



Men's and women's clothing for the Homeless Empowerment program helping them break the cycle of homelessness with housing and support.



MVA in the Community 2023



Member Contributions



These diapers and wipes were donated to Angels Against Abuse as they support infants and children entering the foster care system.

Came within one vote
of being national bird

Mass genocide every
year instead



Thankful

for all the
blessings





Happy Birthday from MVA!



11-01 Maxine Hildum
 11-01 Jo Wolfe
 11-02 Doug Bradley
 11-02 Marian Harding
 11-02 Jesse Hiatt
 11-02 Mary Samsel
 11-03 Ernie Broderick
 11-03 Robert Cooper
 11-03 Robin Lewis
 11-04 Melinda Anderson
 11-04 Janice McCreary
 11-04 Amy Panabaker
 11-05 Steve Bertrand
 11-05 Eleanor (Lynn) Jacobson
 11-06 Carol Cantlay
 11-06 William Edwins
 11-06 Linda Fair
 11-07 Frank Blitzer
 11-07 Janet Payne
 11-07 Carol Snipes
 11-07 Jean Widmeier
 11-08 Evelyn (Kit) Konak
 11-08 Larry Lofing
 11-08 Phyllis Weidner
 11-09 Robert Chellberg
 11-10 Lester Boss
 11-11 Donna Cutting
 11-11 Jeanette Fossett
 11-11 Gary Longfellow
 11-11 Richard Matthews
 11-11 Bernard Reilly
 11-11 Adrienne Van Hooser
 11-12 Lawrence Daly
 11-12 Jeanette Pozniak
 11-12 James (Jim) Sparks
 11-13 Robyn Cox
 11-13 Gary Dahlvik
 11-13 David Dibble
 11-13 Marilyn Myers
 11-13 Judith Trump
 11-14 Clara Hess
 11-14 Mary Palmer
 11-14 David Rozell
 11-14 Frederick Van Swearingen
 11-15 Marilyn Bull

11-15 Martha DiPanfilo
 11-15 Doris Ledford
 11-15 William Rodrigues De Miranda
 11-16 Linda Susens
 11-17 Esther Dabruzzi
 11-17 Bruce DeFelix
 11-17 Helen Olson
 11-18 Anne Burson
 11-18 Carolyn McDonald
 11-18 Elizabeth Morgan
 11-18 Dawn (Katie) Perry
 11-18 Michael (Mike) Petryszak
 11-18 William Tiller
 11-19 Cindy Buchanan
 11-19 Clement Johnson
 11-19 Van Mills
 11-20 David Brooks
 11-20 Frances Druyor
 11-20 Claire Fennessy
 11-20 George Gessler
 11-20 Penny Janowski
 11-20 John Kelley
 11-21 Frederick (Fred) Miller
 11-21 Thelma Robinson
 11-21 Patricia Sallet
 11-21 Lee Williams
 11-21 Cecil (Lee) Willis
 11-22 Dorothy Ade
 11-22 Catherine Jensen
 11-22 Erin Kruck
 11-22 Joan Kunz
 11-22 Naomi Schultz
 11-23 Walter Crosmer
 11-23 Paula Gray
 11-23 Helen Prince
 11-23 Jane Roller
 11-23 James Wisler
 11-24 Juanita Boothroyd
 11-24 William Dougherty
 11-24 Frank Kurhayez
 11-24 Neil Lafavor
 11-24 Gerhard Mueller
 11-24 Debora (Deb) Perry
 11-24 Alberta Rozell
 11-24 Ansel Shircliffe

11-24 Ann Thompson
 11-24 Barbara Willms
 11-25 Donna Williams
 11-26 James Dunn
 11-26 David (Dave) Jones
 11-26 Doris Kursay
 11-26 Elsie McConnell
 11-26 Terry Miller
 11-26 Richard Osborn
 11-26 Cathy Talbot
 11-26 Barbara Tibault
 11-27 Elaine Davis
 11-27 Robert Guay
 11-27 Richard (Dick) Hoffman
 11-27 David Hogue
 11-27 S. McReynolds
 11-27 Anne Powers
 11-27 Sara Richardson
 11-27 Rick (Rick) Stanley
 11-28 Corinne Arnold
 11-28 Carol Beazley
 11-28 Patricia Cleary
 11-28 Patricia Dunn
 11-28 Elijah Gilbert
 11-28 Agnes Matthews
 11-28 Reinhold Matulenko
 11-28 Frances Morden
 11-28 Richard Reffelt
 11-29 Ralph Burson
 11-29 Wayne Huneke
 11-29 Robert Mossberg
 11-29 Jerome Roth
 11-29 Pamela Shively
 11-30 Amelia Bradley
 11-30 Kristi Brendla
 11-30 Cindy Briest
 11-30 Frank Crump
 11-30 Mark Loggins
 11-30 Donald Mclendon
 11-30 Albert Sigman