



President's Message

For most of us, there is a strong connection between the month of November and Thanksgiving, and between Thanksgiving and FOOD! For many of our Tampa Bay neighbors, that connection has been lost and replaced by food uncertainty. We asked our MVA members to bring in non-perishable food items for our friends at Family Support Services so they can support Thanksgiving meals for children in foster care and preventive care programs. We filled two 8' tables with all kinds of food items. What an absolute pleasure it is to lead an organization filled with caring and loving people. I am a huge fan of the Beatles - have been since 1964. John Lennon sang "All you need is love." But that's not exactly correct. Love without action is wasted. The love that MVA shows ripples through our community and should make all of us very thankful for what we have - and what we can share with others. God bless us every one!

We will be voting on the 4 open board positions at the November luncheon. Those elected will serve a two-year term. All nominees were asked to provide a brief campaign statement for publication. The candidates and their statements are included in this newsletter.

The MVA fall picnic is just around the corner - Thursday, November 13 at Lake Seminole Park, Shelter 12. These picnics are a whole bunch of good times. We get to know each other in a very relaxed environment. We play games. We bring side dishes to share. We enjoy the outdoors and the woody setting. Let's plan on filling up the pavilion as we bring in the holiday season in the great outdoors.

The last social of the year is set for Wednesday, November 5. Doors open at Quaker Steak & Lube in Pinellas Park at 4 pm. Join us for a great afternoon hosted by our resident master of ceremonies, Al Shields. Door prizes, a nice dinner, liquid refreshments, great conversations and the price is right!

We will be collecting food items again at the November luncheon. This time, we are looking for non-perishable protein items. Think canned meats, tuna, etc. Area food banks are running low and the demand is extremely high heading into the holidays. Let's fill another couple of tables and spread some holiday love to our neighbors.



MVA in the Community



Angels Fashion Show and Auction

by Dr. Gloria Hill

This past weekend, our team had the privilege of supporting one of our valued community agencies, “Angles Against Abuse”. Known for its tremendous reach and impact, this agency continues to make a difference in the lives of many. During the event, we raised funds for “Angles Against Abuse” by placing bids on items generously donated by local stores and agencies. Each of us contributed using our own personal funds, and many walked away with fabulous prizes. The atmosphere was lively and filled with camaraderie as we socialized with representatives from other agencies we support, including “Ready for Life”.

Our commitment to these organizations goes beyond fundraising. We continue to support “Ready for Life” through ongoing donations and volunteer hours, strengthening our ties and making a positive impact in our community.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make “Angles Against Abuse” Fashion Show and Auction a success!



PJ Clayton celebrates her prize of a spirit-filled cart at the event.

Please Join Us!
Fashion Show



Angel Brunch Bunch

October 25, 2025
St. Pete Yacht Club
11am - 2pm
Champagne Brunch
Unlimited Minosa's
Raffles & More

Fashions By
Dillard's
Tyrone

Tickets: \$100
Purchase Tickets
Online at
www.angelsagainstabuse.org




MVA attendees included Carol Janney, Shirley Murphy, Gloria Hill, Shirley Bowers, Teri Godfrey, Deb Dupper, PJ Clayton, Wendy Hugar, Bea Conner, Vivian O'Dell, Mary Reffelt and Faith Krahrer.

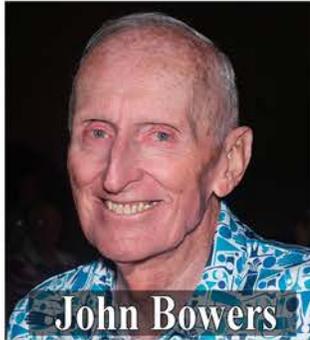


MVA Leadership

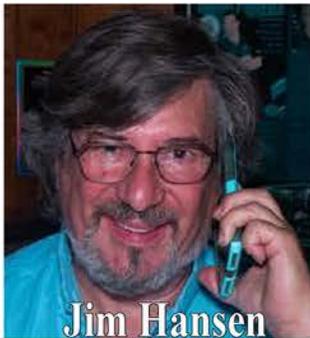
ELECTION



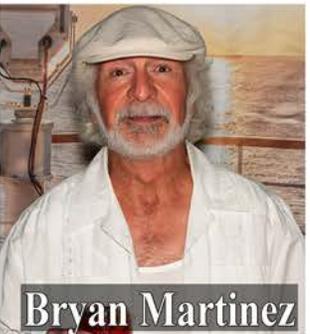
Ten MVA members have been nominated to fill the four board positions expiring this year. Each candidate has been vetted and is qualified to serve on the board. All candidates were asked to submit a short statement so members can make an informed choice on the ballot. The following pages present each candidate and their statement.



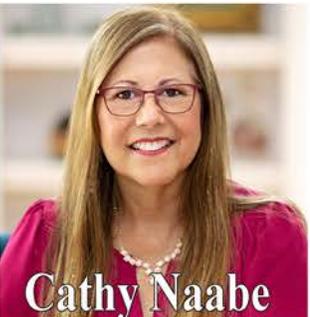
- > Selected as Initial MVA Chairman of the Board at Minnreg's inception in 2020
- > Elected MVA Chairman of the Board annually from 2020 thru 2025 (6 terms)
- > Highly supportive of MVA President (Thom Dupper) in building a strong, vibrant association



No statement provided.



As a board member of the Minnreg Veterans Association I shall uphold and adhere to its bylaws, the organization's mission, its goals and internal operations. As a newer member I will bring a fresh perspective and insure that each MVA member shall enjoy the social benefits of the MVA organization to the fullest.

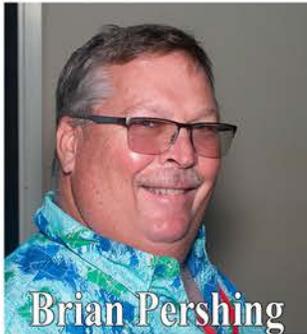


No statement provided.



MVA Leadership

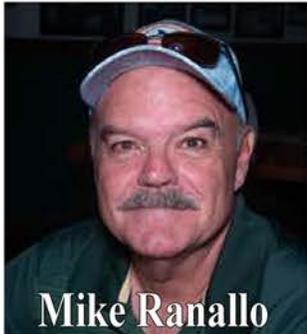
ELECTION



Brian Pershing

At Honeywell I worked for 24 years. In my condo community I was Treasurer for 10 years. At church I've been on most committees and currently a Building Trustee. I've been on the Board of the St Pete Community Band for numerous years and currently lead the Setup crew.

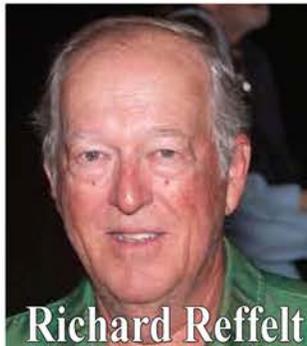
Soon I will be starting my 3rd year in MVA. I look forward for an opportunity to serve this Association in its mission to recruit new members, provide fun and educational activities for its members, and most importantly engage in community



Mike Ranallo

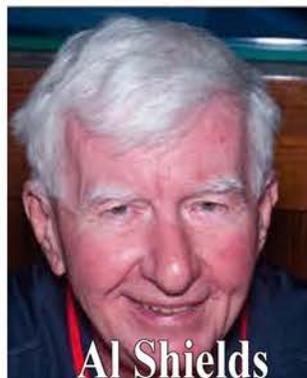
Although I have no previous experience as a board member of the MVA, I have held various technical leadership roles during my 37 years at Honeywell .

Having served as a lead systems engineer and technical director on various programs I am comfortable working in a team atmosphere. I believe this experience would be of benefit in helping the MVA board to make informed, rational decisions.



Richard Reffelt

I have never been on the board, but I'd like to see if I could come up with some new ideas for our group. I am also still working in plant 3 and have an eye out for new retirees that may want to join us.



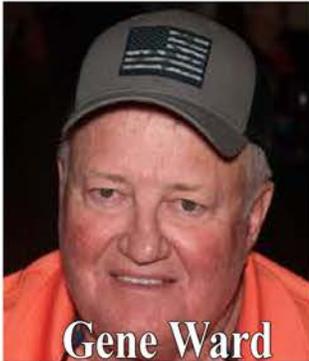
Al Shields

I think most of you know me by now. What you might not know is that I worked with Thom and John from the very earliest days of the new MVA to develop a strategic direction for the new organization, help with all the early logistics, and have been involved with every aspect of the MVA from the merger of the HRC and Minnregs. My experience as president of Seminole Rotary Club and as a Seminole City council member will be invaluable in helping the MVA to serve its members even better in the years to come. As a board member, I will fight to continue the monthly socials.



MVA Leadership

ELECTION



Gene Ward

If re-elected to the MVA Board, I will continue to leverage my 36 years of Honeywell Space executive management experience and skills to ensure decisions being made and actions taken are both fiscally responsible and compliant with the MVA Charter and its Bylaws. I will continue to foster a culture of transparency, collaboration and team work across the entire organization, including with other MVA Board members, the elected MVA Officers, Special Committee teams and all other organizational team members.



Mark Wolf

I worked at Honeywell in the Finance Dept. from 1980 to 1995 as an Individual Contributor and also in various management positions. I joined the Minnregs in 1990 and served as Treasurer for many years and Chairman for 2 years. I've been a Financial Advisor for 30 years, currently with LPL Financial after 20 years with Raymond James. My Mother, Pat Wolf/Minor was a Honeywell employee for many years in many capacities, as well as my Sister, Kristi Brendla, who also worked at Honeywell in the IT Department. We're all MVA members, and look forward to many more years of service to the organization.

In addition, the entire staff is up for election. The incumbents are running unopposed. Following at the staff positions and the incumbents.

- President - Thom Dupper
- Vice-President - Al Shields
- Recording Secretary - Vivian O'Dell
- Manager of Community Service - Gloria Hill
- Manager of Member Events - Wendy Hugar
- Office Manager - Larry Trefz
- Operations Manager - Clive Bailey
- Luncheon Planner - Deb Dupper





First Wednesday Social October 1



95 MVA members and guests gathered for fun, food, fellowship, prizes and liquid refreshments at Quaker Steak & Lube on Wednesday, October 1 - filling up the meeting room with conversation and laughter. It is these events that help cement the relationships among members as they recall glory days at HI and discuss ongoing medical issues.





First Wednesday Social October 1



Vivian O'Dell, Shirley Murphy, Shirley Bowers



Teresa Mickiewicz, Jean Miller



Thom & Deb Dupper



Carl Baum, Betty Held



Masako & Larry Shamon



Jack Freeman, Frank Easton



Richard & Mary Reffelt



Jo Ketring, Loni Wellington



Jerry & Karyn Klos



Thom Dupper, George Suther



First Wednesday Social October 1



Julie & Greg Zajdel



Carol & Lou De La Torre



Vivian O'Dell, Mary Reffelt



Danielle Rasmussen



John Schiffgen



Gloria Whitfield



Larry Harper



Sharon Coogan



Mike Seibel



Patty Marchand



Clive Bailey



Argie Easton



First Wednesday Social October 1



Andrea Shields



Howard Howe



Jim McCormick



Marsha Barlow



Jack Freeman



Cathy Naabe



Jim Hansen



Bea Conner



Harry Blackiston



Bonnie Williams



Brian Zool



Gloria Hill



First Wednesday Social October 1



Artie Martin



Gerry Sturm



Steve Simmons



Fran Kay



Dave Donnelly



Teri Godfrey



Dennis Willis



Carol Jamney



Darrell Schreiber



Wendy Hugar



Bill Ossola



Betsy King



First Wednesday Social October 1



Loni Wellington



Dick Malzahn



Pat Keegan



Dave Cox



Larry Brogan



Helen Malzahn



Mike Ranallo



Margaret Simmons



Al Parisi



Deb Dupper



Bryan Martinez



First Wednesday Social October 1



Marge Lynch



Jerry Dangler



Donna Hansen



Hendrik Gelderloos



Donna Seibel



Larry Trefz



Carol Bailey



Bob Dalton



Genevieve Urbanski



Michael Godfrey



Jo Ketring



Bill Naabe



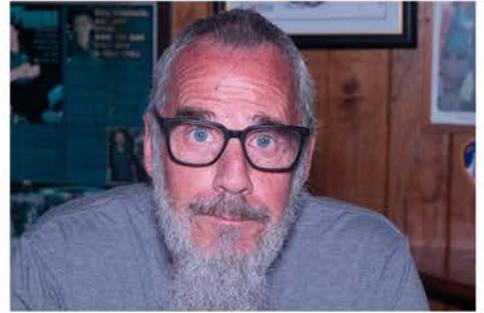
First Wednesday Social October 1



Frank Easton



Roddy King



Rick Shea



Bob Lovejoy



Shawn Cotton



Al Shields



Andy Rasmussen



Tom Conner



John Bowers



Dave Donnelly



Scott Lapham



Mark Barlow



For Our Members



Join us as we say a fond farewell to the hot summer and welcome in the warm fall with a picnic. These events give all of us the opportunity to get to know other MVA members in a relaxed, outdoor setting. On Thursday, November 13, we will gather at 11 am at Lake Seminole Park, Shelter 12 to enjoy food, fun, fellowship and the beautiful fall weather. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to share, from salads to desserts. MVA will provide the main course and all the beverages.

Everyone is encouraged to dress casually and participate in the various games that highlight the event. If you haven't already done so, you can register at:

<https://form.jotform.com/252744785387170>

Picnic Time!



MVA Gives Back

At this time of year, our thoughts turn to family and holiday get-togethers where memories are made and bellies get filled. For many in our community, family is a painful memory and holidays may not bring the joy they deserve. The MVA was asked to provide non-perishable food items for children in foster or protective care. And our members came through with flying colors, bringing in two long tables full. Family Support Services loaded up the van, expressing heartfelt thanks for the support. The need continues, so we have been asked to bring in non-perishable protein items at the November luncheon.





In The Community



Mentors are Essential to Student Success

Mentoring provides the guidance and support students need to navigate school and life. Pinellas Education Foundation is in need of mentors to serve as role models for students in grades 6-12 for our Take Stock in Children (TSIC) mentoring program.

Our mentoring program helps deserving students overcome barriers to success through consistent one-on-one guidance through college readiness support, mentoring and a commitment of at least a 2-year Florida Prepaid scholarship upon graduation.

Investing a small amount of your time can make a BIG difference in a student's life. Mentoring requires just 30 minutes twice a month.



Mentor Qualifications

- ▶ Must be 18 years or older
- ▶ Hold a high school diploma
- ▶ Complete mentor onboarding
- ▶ Commit to at least one school year
- ▶ Pass a criminal background check
- ▶ Be honest, caring, flexible, and possess good listening and problem-solving skills

Are you ready to make a difference as a mentor?



Scan or visit pinellaseducation.org/mentors



Pinellas Education Foundation



Questions?
Contact Kathi Wendt
Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator
727-588-4816, ext. 2110 or
kwendt@pinellaseducation.org



Monthly Luncheon October 15



The ghosties, goblins, ghouls and witches were out in force as a record setting 114 MVA members ushered in the 2025 holiday season with a spooktacular luncheon. Mary Reffelt won the Halloween costume prize and Barbara Potier aced the monster quiz.



Monthly Luncheon October 15



Deb & Thom Dupper, Mary Reffelt



Loni Wellington, John Schiffgen, Jo Ketring



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



Faith & Paul Krahrmer



Teri & Michael Godfrey, Wendy Hugar



Mary & Richard Reffelt, Deb Dupper



Jane & Dennis Willis



Andrea & Al Shields



Karyn & Jerry Klos



Margaret & Steve Simmons



Jan & Bob Friend



Gayle Smith, John Voissem



Al & Gail Olsen



Monthly Luncheon October 15



Carol Janney, Gloria Hill



Faith Kraemer, China Hall



Julie & Greg Zajdel



Jim & Donna Hansen



John & Shirley Bowers



Deb Dupper, Mary Reffelt



Gloria Whitfield, Jo Ktring



Shirley Murphy, Howard Howe



Brian & Katrina Pershing



Gloria Whitfield, John Schiffgen



Ben & Emilie Carter



Genevieve Urbanski, Larry Harper



Monthly Luncheon October 15



Loni Wellington



Fred Miller



Julie Zajdel



Mark Barlow



Margaret Simmons



Kevin Kish



Jeff Ring



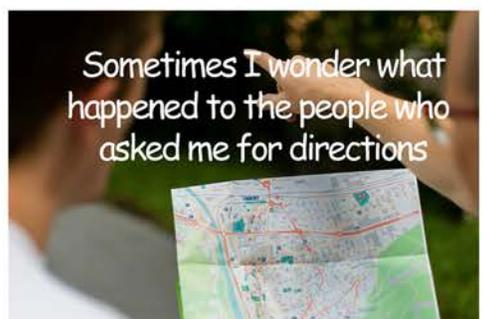
Carol Janney



John Samson



Brian Pershing





Monthly Luncheon October 15



Bea & Tom Conner



Jan & Bob Friend



Betty Held & Carl Baum



Sandy Janofsky, Faith Krahrmer



Clive & Carol Bailey



Kathie Hubbard, Cheryl McAvoy



Jim & Donna Hansen



Shirley Bowers, Shirley Murphy



Mary Reffelt, Vivian O'Dell



Witchie Women - Mary Reffelt, Deb Dupper



Darrell Schreiber, Barbara Pothier



John & Shirley Bowers



Monthly Luncheon October 15



Bryan Martinez



Marsha Barlow



Artie Martin



Masako Shannon



Scott Petrucci



Jacqueline Morgan



Bob Canistraro



Pat Keegan



Jim McCormick



Cheryl McAvoy



Terry Miller



Gloria Hill



Monthly Luncheon October 15



Kathie Hubbard



Al Olsen



Deb Dupper



Mary Reffelt



Larry Piper



Jo Ketring



Bryan Martinez



Wendy Hugar



Hendrik Gelderloos



Patty Jo Clayton



Al Parisi



Monthly Luncheon October 15



Larry Trefz



Barbara Brash



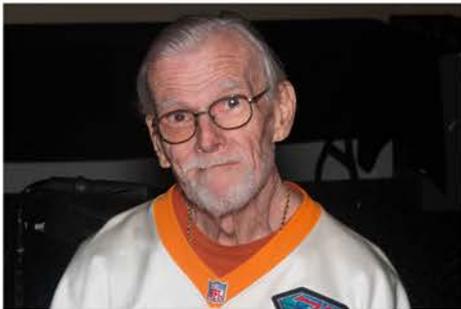
Howard Howe



Argie Easton



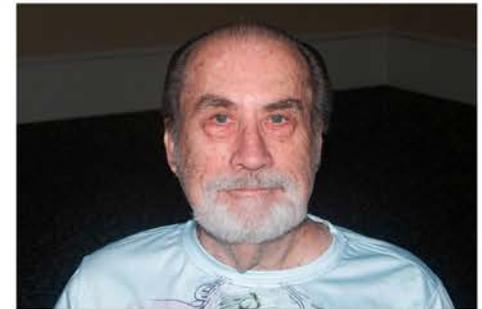
Donald Brash



Larry Shannon



Marge Lynch



Darrell Schreiber



Fran Kay



Sam Janofsky



Helen Malzahn



Monthly Luncheon October 15



Lorraine Wert



Cheryl McAvoy



Dick Malzahn



Patty Marchand



Bob Kay



Betty Held



George Suther



Carol Bailey



Greg Zajdel



Gail Olsen



Bob Lovejoy



For Our Members



Minnreg Bridge Club by Matt Muskovac

The final Minnreg Duplicate Bridge game was played on August 21st, 2025. Jim Acosta and Matt Muskovac ran the club for the last few years. Previously, Billy Adkins was the Chairman for over 20 years. A plaque was made to honor his contributions; it is now hanging on the Minnreg office wall.

Here are some of the frequent Minnreg Bridge players in the last 25 years. Those marked with an asterisk played in the last game in August.

Jim Acosta*, Billy Adkins, Phil Bayly, Steve Bertrand*, John Blechschmidt, Tom Borree*, Jim Crawford, Ron Davis, Bob Donehoo, Dan Engelken, Marty Franklin, Stu & Betty Goldie, Gerry Kaszer, Paul Kueber, Jim Lancashire, Merle Lundeen, Sally Mallory, Matt Muskovac*, Willene Nichols, Jim Parady, Dick Roller, Clyde Schreiner*, Norm Steenmans, Marv Thorne, Peter Vrahotes, John Voissem*, Helen Younski.



Nobody remembers the history of the club prior to 1999. The Duplicate “Boards” that we used are probably from the 1960s, but nobody remembers if the club was in continuous operation since then. And nobody knows exactly when Billy Adkins became Chairman. The date on the plaque is an educated guess.

Twenty years ago, we had as many as 28 players. In the past year, there were times when we did not have enough players for a Duplicate game (8).

The Bridge supplies were donated to the St. Petersburg Bridge club.

A farewell pizza party was held on October 16th. Some players will continue to play at the Dunedin Senior Center.



Happy Birthday from MVA!



- 11/03 Robin Lewis
- 11/17 Laurel Kish
- 11/18 Anne Burson
- 11/19 Michael Ranallo
- 11/21 Frederick Miller
- 11/26 Terry Miller
- 11/28 Elijah Gilbert
- 11/28 Richard Reffelt



I am RETIRED!



I don't have to I don't want to You can't make me