



*My father gave me the greatest gift
anyone could give another person,
he believed in me.
~ Jim Valvano*



President's Message

June is busting out all over. The jasmine vine in our backyard is covered in the most fragrant white blossoms filling up the entire backyard with the scent of summer. Hopefully, normal summer afternoon rains will resume this month and provide some draught relief.

As we wait for the deluge, the MVA presses on with a very impressive list of events and activities - including a Rays game. We honored our mothers at the May luncheon. We will honor our fathers at the June luncheon. We will also hear a story of faith and deliverance at the June luncheon. As many of you know, a group from our church was touring Israel when the hostilities began. The story made national headlines as our group was hunkering down in bomb shelters desperately looking for a way home. Spoiler alert - they made it. It was a combination of factors that would make a great Mission Impossible movie. We will hear from one member of the stranded group who was instrumental in getting the group out of the warzone and into safety and finally back home. This is one story that will lift your spirits and renew your faith.

In July, we will help celebrate America's 250th anniversary. So what is it that makes this country great? What is it about the USA that makes you proud to be an American? As for me, I love the radical idea that government is of the people, by the people and for the people. It's a totally foreign concept to the rest of the world, but those words form the basis of a country that places a high value on individual freedoms. I have seen enough of the rest of the world to really appreciate what we take for granted here. Please share your thoughts about why you love the USA by using the online form: <https://form.jot-form.com/261104127022035>. Let's try to rekindle at least part of the patriotic outpouring that occurred after 911.



June Luncheon Theme: Wild, Wild West



Yee Haw!

Break out the Stetsons and Chaps; the gingham dresses and bonnets. It's time to pay homage to the great American west at the June 17 luncheon.

The settling of the American West was one of history's great human stampedes: a wagon-wheel cyclone of gold fever, land hunger, railroads, buffalo dust, and impossible optimism. It unfolded mostly during the 19th century, especially after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the young United States and cracked open a vast frontier beyond the Mississippi River. The phrase "Manifest Destiny" became popular in the 1840s. It was the belief that Americans were destined to spread across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad completion in 1869 changed everything.

By 1890, the U.S. Census Bureau declared the frontier effectively closed because most western lands had been settled or claimed.



First Tuesday Social May 5



Cinco de Mayo at Eddie's - what could be more fun? It was a great afternoon of fellowship, prizes, liquid refreshment and a great dinner from our special menu. Eddie's added some additional wait help, so the food and drinks were served quickly. These events are terrific opportunities to spend some quality time celebrating memories and solving the world's problems!





First Tuesday Social May 5



Shirley Murphy, Shirley Bowers



Roddy & Betsy King



Deb Dupper, Wendy Hugar



Brian & Katrina Pershing



Thom Dupper, Teri Godfrey



Anne & Clyde Schreiner



Bea & Tom Conner



Jane & Dennis Willis



Julie Donat & Bob Ranallo



Wendy Hugar, PJ Clayton



Thom & Deb Dupper



Tom Conner & Al Shields



First Tuesday Social May 5



Jerry & Karyn Klos



Faith & Paul Krahrmer



Deb Dupper, Wendy Hugar, PJ Clayton



Vivian O'Dell



Michael Webb



Carol Bailey



Jerry Dangler



Donna Seibel



John Schiffgen



Leslie Tuck



Al Parisi



Michael Godfrey



First Tuesday Social May 5



Steve Simmons



Helen Malzahn



Mark Barlow



Bobbie Smith



John Bowers



Gayle Smith



Sam Janofsky



Genevieve Urbanski



Dave Donnelly



Gloria Hill



Artie Martin



Patty Marchand



First Tuesday Social May 5



Cheryl McAvoy



George Suther



Sandy Janofsky



Mike Lake



Anne Burson



George Lake



Wanda Beasley



Jim McCormick



Marsha Barlow



Bob Canistraro



Margaret Simmons



Dick Malzahn



First Tuesday Social May 5



Larry Harper



Gloria Whitfield



Mike Seibel



Pat Keegan



Clive Bailey



Bonnie Williams



Howard Howe



Jo Ketring



Fred Miller



Loni Wellington



John Voissem



Andrea Shields



MVA in the Community Partner Schools



The success of our community outreach efforts is the most evident in our relationship with partner schools. For the past five years, we have worked directly with area schools to improve the quality of life on the campuses. This direct involvement is spearheaded by our Community Service Manager, Dr. Gloria Hill. This year, she identified two schools which have long lists of needs and wants. Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School is one of the poorest schools in the county, and Richard Sanders School is a unique K-12 school working with at-risk students from all over the county.



The MVA supplied an iPad to support the special needs classroom at Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School just around the corner from the MVA office.



MVA presented a cotton candy machine and picture frames to the Richard Sanders K-12 school. The machine will be used to celebrate student successes with a low cost option. Students and teachers will be featured in the picture frames throughout the facility.

Our June Luncheon Speaker



ST. PETE CHURCH GROUP RESCUED F

Image you are on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land as part of a church group from St. Petersburg. You have been there a few days, seeing the Bible come alive before your very eyes.

As part of the tour, you are waiting to be baptized in the Jordan River when you hear air raid sirens rip through the afternoon sky. You are surprised and a bit apprehensive, but your tour guide knows exactly what the sirens are for. In the next few minutes, you and your group are escorted into a bomb shelter. Inside, you are able to hear missiles being intercepted above your shelter.

It all seems surreal. War has broken out and you are caught in the middle of the battle. At that point, the realization sets in - this is no drill. This is the real thing. This is what Israelis deal with every day of their lives.

This was the fate of our June luncheon speaker, Angela Baird. She and her group were stuck in Israel with no clear way home. She will share her story of faith and hope with us on June 17.



So what is it about this great country that gets your passions churning? Many of you have already submitted your reason for loving the red, white and blue. In this age of extreme polarity in this country, let's remember the patriotic fervor that gripped the country right after 9/11. We all forgot our differences and rallied around this tragedy with a spirit not seen since.

We want to have a grand old tribute to our USA at the July luncheon. A big part of that will be sharing your ideas about why you love America.

If you haven't done so already, please use the online form to send in your story.
<https://form.jotform.com/261104127022035>





Monthly Luncheon May 20



We broke 100 again as 102 MVA members and guests gathered for a Hawaiian luau on May 20. We would have had roast suckling pig, but Steve did not have an oven big enough to accommodate a whole pig. So the roast pork on the menu was our homage to a real luau. Most attendees wore tropical attire and seemed to appreciate the presentation by officer Joel Quattelbaum of the Largo Police Department. Officer Q presented a great overview of the senior services available in Pinellas County along with information about avoiding senior scams. All the MVA mothers in attendance received a pink carnation in honor of their most important role in life. Several members have provided feedback about the sound in the hall. We are actively looking for ways to improve the overall quality of the sound, but the room itself is our biggest hurdle. The echo in the room presents a formidable challenge for clarity. We will continue to work on ways to help all our members hear every word from the lecturn - including bad jokes!





Monthly Luncheon May 20



Dick Malzahn and "the Shirleys"

Jo Ketring, John Schiffgen, Loni Wellington

*Carol & Clive Bailey, Emilie & Ben Carter,
Chirley Murphy*



Wendy Hugar, Jo Ketring, Bea Conner

*Deborah Abrahamson, Teri Godfrey, Joe Abrahamson,
Michael Godfrey, PJ Clayton, Tom & Bea Conner,
Wendy Hugar*

Donald & Barbara Brash



Greg & Julie Zajdel

Emilie & Ben Carter

Thom Dupper, Al Shields



Monthly Luncheon May 20



Fred Miller, Argie & Frank Easton



Loni Wellington, John Schiffgen



Bea & Tom Conner



Teri & Michael Godfrey



Karyn & Jerry Klos



Donald & Barbara Brash



Gloria Hill, Wendy Hugar



Thom Dupper, Al Shields



Evelyn Hall, John Bowers



Jan & Bob Friend



Emilie & Ben Carter



Monthly Luncheon May 20



Fred Miller



Wendy Hugar



Brian Pershing



Jacqueline Morgan



Steve Simmons



Teri Godfrey



Artie Martin



Bea Conner



Brian Martinez



Vivian O'Dell



Dennis Willis



Argie Easton



Monthly Luncheon May 20



John & Shirley Bowers



Ben & Emilie Carter



Pat Keegan, Bonnie Williams



Anne & Clyde Schreiner



Sandy & Sam Janofski



Officer Joel Quattelbaum



Paul & Faith Krahrmer



Bea Conner, PJ Clayton



Jan & Bob Friend



Al Parisi, Brian Martinez, Larry Trefz, Larry Ring



Patty Marchand, Gloria Whitfield





Monthly Luncheon May 20



Lorraine Wert



Tom Conner



Shirley Bowers



Michael Godfrey



Betty Held



Frank Easton



Deb Dupper



Larry Harper



Vivian O'Dell



Larry Trefz



Genevieve Urbanski



Al Parisi



Monthly Luncheon May 20



Jeff Ring



Evelyn Hall



Larry Piper



Shirley Murphy



Brian Pershing



Gloria Whitfield



Patty Marchand



Margaret Simmons



Pat Keegan





Spring Picnic Time!



If you weren't there, you missed one gorgeous event. The park is open and very natural, the shelter was very open and spacious, the MVA members in attendance were animated and engaged, the food (thanks to Wendy and Larry - and everyone who brought dishes to share) was very tasty, and the weather was absolutely beautiful. Our chairman, John Bowers, has been permanently banned from future corn hole competition. The guy is unbelievably good. And Brian Pershing is an all-star as well. Just not fair! Wendy is planning another picnic in the fall.





A Blast from the Past



Honeywell

CARL L. VIGNALI
Vice President & General Manager
Space & Strategic Avionics Division

October 4, 1983

Mr. Fred Cutting, Treasurer
Citizens for Efficient Needed Transit Services
1801 Oak Forest Drive South
Clearwater, Florida 33519

Dear Fred:

I support and endorse the upcoming referendum to unify the Pinellas County mass transit systems. An effective mass transit system would markedly improve the Pinellas County business climate.

Not only would the efficiency of our operations be improved, but the task of attracting high-tech professionals will be easier. Pinellas County traffic is one of the few negative factors we face in recruiting.

An effective transit system would provide our employees with an easier, more cost effective, and environmentally sound means to get to and from work.

Our whole community will be better served when present traffic congestion can be reduced, especially during tourist season.

This referendum deserves the support of the individuals and corporations whose future is in Pinellas County.

Sincerely,

HONEYWELL INC.

Carl L. Vignali

CLV:jws



We need to talk!

Over the past few months, we have been made aware of some issues among our membership that need to be addressed. Some are minor annoyances, others are pretty serious.

The MVA charter states the purpose of this organization::

...creating good fellowship among members... to provide and encourage efficiency, fairness, good character and thrift. To work for a better understanding between (members) and through good example and advice, to instill in all a feeling of responsibility and fairness, and in a broader sense to teach and apply the principle of the Golden Rule.

Good Fellowship - we conduct monthly socials and luncheons to promote good fellowship. The socials are primarily for our members to interact with each other, sharing old war stories and catching up on doctors appointments and other important matters. There is a short period when Al gives away door prizes and the 50/50 winners are announced. The luncheons, however, are a different animal. They are the official meetings of this organization. They are planned to provide opportunities to discover what we are doing in the community, to celebrate birthdays, to honor our country and our Lord, to learn about topics that affect our lives.

Here's the problem - the room at Banquet Masters is just like the old Minnreg Hall - solid walls with no sound absorbing material. That makes for an audio nightmare for many of our members. We are exploring other audio setups that may make the sound clearer. What makes it worse is the continuing conversations going on while the guest speaker is presenting. Many times, the conversations are making it impossible to hear the speaker. We have tried many times to curb these side conversations but they continue on. Common sense tells us that we should listen when someone speaks. **Please use common sense along with the Golden Rule and curtail these conversations when someone is addressing the group.**

Eye on the clock - Please continue to be aware of "doors open at ___." For socials, the event starts at 4 pm and doors open at 3:30 pm. This allows the folks at Eddie's to clear and reset the room. Please understand that feeding around 100 people who all arrive at about the same time is a challenge to any restaurant. We have had several instances in the past where orders got lost or some orders were significantly delayed. Al has worked with the staff at Eddie's to resolve these issues. We understand that many of you can't wait to see the smiling faces of your MVA peeps, but **please do not arrive prior to 3:30 pm for socials.** **For luncheons**, we have moved the meeting start time up to 11 am. **Doors open at 10:30** - again, allowing our set-up team enough time to prepare the room.

Responsibility and Fairness - Our contract with Banquet Masters does not allow for carrying out any food. This is standard practice for buffet-style dining. **Please do not ask for carry out containers or bring your own containers.** Also, we have heard that someone is collecting unused drink tickets and then taking them to the bar and asking for carry-out beverages. Not cool. First of all, MVA must pay for every drink ticket used. Second, **the staff is not able to provide any carry out alcohol.**

Can we clean up these few things, please? That will make for a much better experience for all involved.



Happy Birthday from MVA!



John Voissem	6/1
Katrina Pershing	6/2
Thom Dupper	6/3
Donna Hansen	6/4
Howard Howe	6/5
Kevin Kish	6/5
Gail Flowers	6/6
Diane Nees	6/11
Gloria Hill	6/14
Bryan Martinez	6/14
Gene Ward	6/14
John Schiffgen	6/15
Faith Krahmer	6/16
Ronald Lindquist	6/21
Bea Conner	6/23
Debby Teat	6/23
Scott Lapham	6/24
Jean Torell-McDonald	6/24
Robert Dalton	6/26
Lynn Neri	6/27



You aren't old, you're a classic!

Be first to name the car (year, make, model) above for a prize. info@minnregs.com

