



Ken Gerace – Current MGAC Director and Chairman of the Board (Director Group A)

Professional:

I am and have been an IT professional for 29 years. I currently am an employee of CVS. My current position is Manager, Application Development, under Government Services.

Personal:

NRA RSO Certified
Project Appleseed Rifle Instructor
Project Appleseed Pistol Instructor
Project Appleseed Shoot Boss

Volunteer:

It has been my pleasure and honor to volunteer my time for several organizations.

Present Manatee Gun and Archery Club:

I began shooting at MGAC as there was a Project Appleseed held at MGAC in 2011. I hadn't even known of the existence of the Club. I was impressed by Project Appleseed and joined their ranks as an instructor in training and made MGAC my "home range" for Appleseed. It wasn't long before I was shooting there as a patron. With the Club's amenities and general atmosphere, I became a member. Since, I have accepted a board Position and have been serving the MGAC board for four years. Two of those years as Chairman of the board.

As a Director and Chairman of the Board I believe I have operated with honesty and integrity while working with Officers and Directors to maintain a cohesive group. I am transparent in my actions and communications and available for Members, Officers, and Directors. During my tenure as Director and Chairman was focused on keeping Members and Guests safe, being proactive, open minded, ensure all disciplines and areas are kept top of mind and forward looking while being fiduciarily responsible with Club funds.

The current MGAC Board has done an excellent job of running and maintaining the Club. Within the past four years there have been challenges we haven't seen such as COVID and how do we operate as an essential service, maintain the health and safety of Members and Guests, and continue to operate the club despite ammunition shortages, gun prices skyrocketing, and some people not wanting to leave their homes. The club endured. The Board instituted policies that were acceptable by our Members, Patrons, and following the CDC recommendations. The Board searched high and low to ensure we had ammunition for our shooters and did so as not to put a burden or take advantage of the shooters. Also including general inclement weather, hurricanes, floods, and fires at the range. I'm very happy to say the Club has maintained, endured, and has been profitable.

Just to name a few highlights over the past four years I've been on the Board, your Board and formed Committees have provided some of these notable items.

- 3D Archery Range
- Brought 5 Stand Back
- Instituted a new discipline known as the Pistol Challenge Course.
- Moving MGAC to cloud based services for clerical and financial systems to protect club data, improve accessibility of information to our Members and the Board.
- Instituting a system by which we can verify quickly by a scan, a Member or Guest's waiver status limiting liability to the Club.
- Setting forth future planning to include upgrading amenities and additional disciplines such as the 1000yd range.
- Updated Range policies and SOPs as necessary

This is not an exhaustive list but notable accomplishments.

If elected to serve in addition to ensuring viability, safety, and operation I'd like to see some of the following:

- We have roughly 600 members. While holding Member and Board members in the past four years we've had a Members quorum only a few times and that's with the bare minimum amount of members which is 10. I want to foster more of a community to build strong Membership relations. I want the voices of the Members to direct the MGAC Board. Some Ideas I've had and other share.
 - Updating, Improving, and Bringing the MGAC Main Line into the future

- Updating the Clubhouse
- Updating Property amenities (bathrooms, break areas, landscape, etc.)
- Updating camping areas (I believe MGAC should be a shooting destination and would love to see campers every weekend)
- Having more frequent Member gatherings and events (dinners, competitions, more swap meets) Where Members and their families are welcome. I would love to see the Membership come together as a community, network, and get to know their fellow Members. I would love to see generations of Members continue at MGAC.
- Updated marketing plans and strategies
- Better volunteer incentives

Boy Scouts of America:

As a youth I was a member of the BSA. When my son became of age at 6 he began as a Tiger Scout. I began volunteering as an adult and have now done so for the past 15 years. Since I've held multiple position within the Pack and Troop from Den Leader to Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Currently Scoutmaster for Troop 797 at the First United Methodist Church in Seffner. While holding these positions I've also served at the Council level as a Unit Commissioner, Round Table Staff, and District Committee.

I've been fond of the program since I was a youth. I consider it a privilege to work with our youth and especially in today's society help these young men and now women navigate areas youth a decade ago wouldn't have imagined. My Son has obtained the rank of Eagle through the program and has since aged out. I am still concerned with our youth and believe this is a great program and have continued despite not having youth of my own still in the program.

Project Appleseed:

I spoke of my tenure in the BSA. I was at a meeting when my son was a Cub Scout. As I was in conversation with another leader shooting became a topic and someone told me about this organization. He said, "They teach traditional Rifleman marksmanship and American History between instruction and courses of fire" Well, that's all he had to say and here I am now 12 years later with the organization as a Shoot Boss and Instructor. I'm affiliated with the organization as I believe in it so strongly to not only meet new people, help shooters with firearm safety, improve their shooting, I get to tell them about our extraordinary history as Americans. Also to remind them that freedom isn't free and to let the fires of freedom There are no call to arms but a call to action for every American to become vigilant and become involved in their communities, be informed, and make informed votes.

Sun N Fun Fly In:

The Sun N Fun Fly In is the Country's second largest aviation gathering and airshow behind Oshkosh. I am a Private Pilot and since I was a student pilot in 1995 I have volunteered a week

per year at the fly in. The event is staffed by Local EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) Chapters. Each one claiming responsibility for a particular activity. The EAA Chapter 175 out of Tampa Executive Airport has done the Volunteer lunches for 40 years. For 25 years I've served the volunteer population lunch each day throughout the event. This amounts to daily total sandwiches in the area of 2,500 to 3,000 daily and on the large airshow days up to 3,500.

In conclusion I see the need to donate my time and often money to organizations I've become passionate about. I would thank you for your vote to continue to serve MGAC. If I am granted your vote I promise to operate as I have in previous years while continuing to view MGAC as a whole (all areas and disciplines)and a community. Also work to make the Club better and work to make it the shooting destination of West Central Florida.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ken Gerace – MGAC Board Chairman