

**OFFICERS  
2018-2019**

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Wilma Jean Alexander  
3916 N Potsdam Ave. #163804  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
(309) 824-0652

**First Vice President**

John P. Jones  
495 NW Zack Dr.  
Lake City, FL 32055  
(386) 965-5233

**Second Vice President**

Dale A. Johnson  
16 Tobey Hill Dr.  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
(607) 972-9314

**VP of Membership**

Lois Tucker  
13534 Laughery Creek Road  
Dillsboro, IN 47018  
(703) 362-4733

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Carolyn Banks  
117 Rainbow Drive, #1775  
Livingston, TX 77399  
(903) 556-2547

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R. O. "Dick" Wolfe  
704 Palma Sola Blvd.  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
(941) 224-9180

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Harry Henschel  
3520 Windjammer Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
(719) 339-9237

**Alternate National Director**

J.R. "Jack" Ehlenberg  
108 Michocaun Circle  
Daphne, AL 36526  
(251) 591-3080

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**Newsletter Editor**

Paulette Jones  
pjones4@bellsouth.net  
(386) 965-5232



A Chapter of Family Motor Coach Association

Web: [www.MIRVClub.com](http://www.MIRVClub.com)

## GREETINGS FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS

WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON FROM ALL OF US INVOLVED IN LEADERSHIP OF MONACO INTERNATIONAL!!!!!!

Trusting that each of you are eagerly awaiting the holidays and will be sharing with friends and family. Les and I will spend the Christmas holidays in Bloomington/Normal IL as he will undergo a series of chemo treatments starting Dec 14 ending on December 28. We will return to Leesburg FL on the 30th for the remainder of the winter. Our travels will be limited until the status of Les' health improves.

Hope you, however, are experiencing good health and enjoying life wherever your travels may take you. As you plan for 2019, be sure to include Monaco International activities in those plans. The next event, "See More, Do More" rally will be held, March 6-March 11 in Tallahassee FL in March at the North Florida Fairgrounds prior to FMCA scheduled for Perry GA. Registration is available online at [mirvclub.com](http://mirvclub.com). Check for details on the website, [mirvclub.com](http://mirvclub.com). This will be our first "Destination Rally" which is defined as one whose activities are based on the community in which it is located and is being hosted by Mike Sanders and Sharron Riley. Be sure to get involved by registering early. A caravan is being planned so we can go as a group into FMCA.

Our second event will be the "Hit the Jackpot" rally scheduled for April 10-14 at the Oasis RV Resort in Las Vegas, NV. Jim and Melva Crimmins are serving as hosts. We will have our annual business meeting in conjunction with the rally including election of officers. Please plan to attend! Your input into the execution of chapter business is important to the success of its operations. Go online at [mirvclub.com](http://mirvclub.com) to register. Remember!!!! Registration is limited to the first 120 coaches. There is no room for expansion as the facilities are limited

Our third event, which is in the planning stages, will be a Pre-rally held prior to FMCA meeting in Minot, ND, August 14-17. Your First Vice President, John Jones, is hosting this rally. Watch for the announcement and registration form on [mirvclub.com](http://mirvclub.com) after the first of the year.

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Our fourth event will be the Balloon Fiesta October 9-12 (departing on 13th after morning events) in Albuquerque, NM. ). Harry and Sandy Hentschel and Roger and Carol Smalley will be hosting the event. Registration is now on-line. The Board has categorized this type rally as an "Events" Rally. If you have not attended a Balloon Fiesta, you don't know what you are missing. Put this event on your "bucket list"; you don't want to miss out on an experience of a lifetime. This year, 2018, was our third time to attend. It was a grand experience. So glad we were able to attend again to experience all the beauty and excitement of the event. There is always something new and exciting on the field to see.

By now you should have received the news blast regarding the possible selection of a different name for the Club to better identify its constituencies. Get involved! Let us know your opinion regarding this effort. Several have submitted names to be considered. Other have expressed that they wish to retain Monaco International as the official name. Send me an email at [bumminfir@hughes.net](mailto:bumminfir@hughes.net) to express your opinion. I will in turn forward your submissions and/or comments to the Committee which has been given the responsibility to review and make recommendations to the Board in Las Vegas. Let us hear from you. And thanks to those who have already responded.

For those of you who are actively involved in Monaco International, a special THANK YOU! For those of you who are not, we welcome you to become involved and stay involved in whatever way you wish. Whether its attending events, volunteering to assist with the events, volunteering to serve as wagon master for a future event, serving as an officer, or perhaps using your talents to assist in marketing efforts, presenting seminars; "you name it" we want you to become involved.

Please read carefully the contributions each officer and wagon master has written to be included in this newsletter. I'm sure you will find information that will be of value to you as you plan for the future.

Your President,  
*Wilma Jean Alexander*



Monaco International Club has expanded its membership to include not only those coaches manufactured by Monaco Coach Corporation, but also REV: Monaco, Executive, Beaver, Holiday Rambler, Safari, American and Fleetwood. As a result, the Board believes a name change is in order.

A contest, "Name Our Club" is being initiated with this announcement.

1. Submit suggestions to [bumminfir@hughes.net](mailto:bumminfir@hughes.net) by March 15, 2019.
2. Suggestions will be forwarded to a committee.
3. The committee will choose three (3) names and will present to the Board by April 8, 2019.
4. The Board will select two (2) names and present the names for a vote at the Annual Business Meeting in Las Vegas.
5. An announcement of the winning name will be made at the Business Meeting and a presentation of a \$50 prize will be given.

*Please get involved and submit your ideas prior to March 15, 2019, to [bumminfir@hughes.net](mailto:bumminfir@hughes.net).*

*Thanking you in advance.*

*Wilma Jean Alexander  
President*

# GET CARRIED AWAY

## 2018 MI ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA RALLY

The 2018 Monaco International Rally at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta (AIBF) held October 10th through 14th, 2018 was another outstanding MI Balloon Fiesta Rally.

The Rally in essence was sold out with 80 coaches (80% were MI members) registered. In all, 168 attended the Rally. All attending observed the Inflation of some 650 hot air balloons, including over 90 Special Shapes and 66 flying foreign flags.

The weather was extremely pleasant during the rally, dipping only into the lower 50s in the mornings. The balloons were able to fly three of the four mornings of the rally and eight of the total nine days of the whole Fiesta. Balloon Glows occurred on all scheduled evenings, although cut short one night due to winds. Following the Glows an enormous and spectacular Fireworks display followed a laser light show. There were a lot of Ooos and Ahas in the MI Social Gathering Area as they were again truly outstanding, and we had front row seats! We were also treated to sky divers in the night skies with pyrotechnics. This was a first for the Fiesta. Quite a site!

Monaco again had The Best parking location that could be had at the Balloon Fiesta. We were located in the first four rows of the premier VIP West Parking facility, immediately adjacent to the launch field. We were well less than one hundred yards from the launching balloons and countless balloon flew directly over our coaches at 70 feet, close enough to talk to the pilot and passengers.

We were privileged again to have a hot air balloon pilot talk to the rally group on the first night before and after one of our excellent provided meals. He provided a great history of hot air ballooning and explained the fundamentals of Lighter Than Air flight. He also brought his balloon system, and while he could not inflate the envelope, he set out the basket and partially assembled the system so all could see the instruments. Many took advantage of having their picture taken while standing in the basket and experienced the thrill of operating the powerful, thundering burner.

At the luncheon on Thursday, MI President Wilma Jean Alexander provided a brief history of MI at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Rally and a tribute to David and Kay Piper, who served as Rally Masters for over a decade. A token appreciation gift of a balloon shaped wine cork holder was presented to Marvin and De Pitts for their eight years of Co-Hosting the MI Balloon Fiesta Rally.

Several MI rally participants took the opportunity to crew for a balloon during the Rally. Several indicated they planned to return next year to crew for the same pilot in hopes of getting a balloon ride. This is common after crewing for a pilot a number of times. At least two of our Rally attendees took balloon rides during the Fiesta this year.

On Saturday morning, two balloons landed immediately in front of our coaches parked on the front row, providing an opportunity to watch the landing, and several took the opportunity to help take down and packed up the balloon systems.

At least seventy-five percent of the attendees were first time attendees at AIBF and for a few this was their first MI rally. As with most MI Rallies, there were numerous comments about the copious amounts of food available for rally attendees. Yes, we ate, and ate again. In addition to the catered

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BBQ dinner on the first night, we had two exceptional lunches and outstanding Texas size, New Mexico style, breakfast burritos one morning, a continental breakfast another and of course, daily Social Hours with appetizers. The overwhelming response on the Rally Critiques was to return and to return again to El Pinto restaurant for the outstanding luncheon buffet.

We also experienced outstanding volunteerism from the Parking and Greeting Crew to the numerous volunteers who helped prepare daily appetizers and to the photographers who captured the Rally. Many, many thanks to the volunteers who were essential in making the rally a success. Not enough can be said for the outstanding Advance Crew that assisted this year that included: Kevin Pitts and Elizabeth Mahoney (in De's physical absence), Sharron Riley and Mike Sanders, Betty and Carl Hicks and Roger and Carol Smalley, the latter who have agreed to return in 2019 to be Co-Host. These folks were fabulous! Thanks also to Len and Chris Henderson, MI members who graciously donated their services, equipment and supplies to take and provide photos to all who attended the Thursday luncheon.

RV Country (nee Paul Evert) again came to MI's aid by providing a sponsorship. Be sure to thank Curt Curtis and his staff. And again, Monaco International provided a nice subsidy for MI members again this year, making the Rally an even bigger bargain.

Additional pictures of the Rally will be posted on the MIRVCLUB.com website under Past Rallies.

If you have not been to the AIBF, it should be high on your Bucket List. MI rally dates for 2019 are October 9th through 13th, departing mid-morning on the 13th after ballooning activities are over. You can sign up at MIRVCLUB.COM under Future Rallies. Only MI members can apply through mid-April. On April 15th, registration will open to all FMCA members on a first-come basis, but non-members must have an MI member who is also attending as a sponsor. Apply early!

Submitted by Co-Host:

*Sandy and Harry Hentschel  
De and Marvin Pitts*







*There were balloons, balloons, balloons. One even landed directly in front of our coaches and several of our members grabbed their leather gloves and lent a hand landing the balloon and then helping stow it. The added delightful surprise was the occupants of the balloon had gotten engaged during their short, dramatic flight. You never know what might happen at the Balloon Fiesta!!!!*





# Tallahassee

*See More, Do More*

**March 6 - March 11, 2019**

North Florida Fairgrounds  
441 Paul Russell Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

## **MONACO INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION RALLY**

### **\$189**

**5 NIGHTS CAMPING**

**50/30 AMP AND WATER**

**PIZZA PARTY**

**HOTDOG SUPPER**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

**DONUTS ONE MORNING**

**BYOP / APPETIZERS HAPPY HOURS**

**POTLUCK DINNER**

*Optional Activity:*

*Day trip to Colquitt, GA, to see Swamp Gravy play and buffet  
at historic Tarrer Inn*

*\$40 per person*



**Things to Do in the Area:**



Historic Capitol Tour  
Governor's Mansion  
Working Capital Tour  
Florida State University Tour  
Mission San Luis  
Alfred B. Maclay Gardens  
Museum of Florida History

Wakulla Springs State Park Boat Tour  
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge  
Day Trip to Apalachicola  
Tallahassee Automobile and Collectibles Museum  
Scenic Canopy Roads  
Tallahassee St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail  
Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway

Greetings,

We would like to personally invite you to attend the Monaco International Tallahassee See More, Do More Destination Rally March 6-11, 2019 (arrive 3/6 depart 3/11). The \$189 rally fee includes camping with 50/30 electric and water, a hotdog supper, pizza party, ice cream social, potluck dinner, BYO drink and appetizers to share happy hours. On Saturday there is a day trip to Colquitt, GA to see the 26th edition Swamp Gravy play after a lunch buffet at the historic Tanner Inn. The fee for both of these events is \$40 a person. Finally, on March 11 there will be a caravan to the FMCA Convention in Perry, GA.

Below is a list of some of the things to do in and near Tallahassee including hour of operation, costs and websites to assist you with planning your trip.

We will look forward to seeing you in March. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

*Sharron Riley and Mike Sanders*

Rally Masters

[Ser211@bellsouth.net](mailto:Ser211@bellsouth.net)

Monaco International

### **Places to see, things to do around Tallahassee**

**Historic Capitol Tour-** Monday-Friday, 9-4:30, Sat. 10-4:30, Sunday noon-4:30. Upon arrival, check in at the reception desk located on the first floor which is one level above the ground. Exhibits on the three levels, self-guided or guided tours available. Free.

Website: [flhistoriccaptol.gov](http://flhistoriccaptol.gov).

**Governor's Mansion-** contact Carol Beck at [850-718-9345](tel:850-718-9345) or [carol.beck@myflorida.com](mailto:carol.beck@myflorida.com) to schedule a tour. Free.

**The New Capitol-** guided and self-guided. Legislature will be in session, so reservations are recommended. Contact [850-488-6167](tel:850-488-6167).

**Tallahassee Museum-** Monday-Saturday, 9-5, Sunday, 11-5 \$12 Adults and \$11.50 Seniors. A living museum featuring native wildlife, nature trails, historic exhibits and zip lines.

Website: [tallahasseemuseum.org](http://tallahasseemuseum.org)

**Florida State University tour** - Visitor Services is open 8-5, Monday-Friday. Walking tours are available 9:15 and 2:15, Monday-Friday. A University Ambassador will lead you on a two-hour tour. Self-guided tours are available. Free.

Website: [Visit.fsu.edu](http://Visit.fsu.edu)

**Mission San Luis-** Tuesday - Sunday, 10-4. Adults \$5, Seniors (65 and older) \$3. National Historic Landmark reconstructed Spanish mission that explores native culture and Spanish colonization.

Website: [missionsanluis.org](http://missionsanluis.org)

**Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park** -8-sunset, daily. Maclay House Museum is open January through April 9 until 5, daily. \$6 vehicle entry 2-8 occupants. Single occupant vehicle entry is \$4. \$6 garden entry fee during blooming months (Jan-Apr). Guided tours are available on Saturday and Sunday during the blooming season. Paddling, biking and hiking available in the park.

Website: [floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org)

**Museum of Florida History** - Monday -Friday, 9-4:30, Saturday, 10-4, Sunday, noon-4:30. Free.

Website: [museumoffloridahistory.com](http://museumoffloridahistory.com)

**Knott House Museum**- guided tours on the hour, Wednesday-Friday, 1,2,3:00, Saturday, 10, question, noon, 1,2 and 3:00. Free.

Website: [museumoffloridahistory.com](http://museumoffloridahistory.com)

**Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park Boat Tour** - 8:00 to sundown, every day. \$6.00 vehicle entrance fee. Ranger led 45-55-minute wildlife river boat tour. \$8 for adults.

Website: [floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org)

**St. Marks National Wildlife National Refuge** - open year-round, daylight hours. Visitor Center open Monday - Friday, 8-4, Sat and Sun, 10-5. Free. (St. Marks Lighthouse).

Website: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

**Tallahassee Automobile and Collectibles Museum** - Monday-Friday, 8-5, Saturday, 10-5, Sunday, 11-5. Admission: Adults \$17.50, Seniors \$15, Veterans \$15, Two or more guests \$15.

Website: [tacm.com](http://tacm.com)

**Tallahassee Scenic Drives**- a total of 78 miles of official canopy roads.

Website: [visittallahassee.com](http://visittallahassee.com)

**Tallahassee St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail** - 20.5-mile paved trail runs from Tallahassee to community of St. Marks.

**Miccosukee Canopy Road** - biking trails near Tallahassee with entrances at Thornton Rd, Edenfield Rd, Crump Rd, and Fleischmann Rd. From flat and open to hilly, wooded and twisty, this trail (and numerous side trails) offers a variety of challenges for all skill levels along with diverse scenery.

Website: [cms.leoncountyfl.gov](http://cms.leoncountyfl.gov)

**Other websites:** [visittallahassee.com](http://visittallahassee.com)

**Swamp Gravy buffet at historic Tarrer Inn** (\$20 per person includes drink and tip). We have lunch prior to attending the play.



**"Swamp Gravy: Fourth and Long"** play at Cotton Hall in Colquitt, GA - Georgia's official folk life play, \$20 per person. "There's life happening on the bleachers & whole other world on the football field. The 26th edition of Swamp Gravy will explore the dreams fulfilled, the loved ones found, and the lives altered irrevocably under the Friday night lights-proving that sometimes our fumbles make the victories that much more sweet". Colquitt, GA is an hour drive from Tallahassee and is Georgia's first Mural City.

Pre-register for our event special buffet and play package \$40 total.



## LAS VEGAS RALLY

Hey, if you haven't heard Monaco International is having a rally in Las Vegas! Right off the strip with 50-amp full hookups; we will be staying at the beautiful Oasis RV Resort ([www.oasislasvegasrvresort.com](http://www.oasislasvegasrvresort.com)) for four days and nights.



Our committee has planned four full days of events, entertainment, and historical seminars about how Las Vegas became Las Vegas. We've engaged the best caterer in Vegas to provide you with scrumptious breakfasts, and dinners. In addition, Mitch has agreed to be the MAN in charge of our bocce ball tournament, a golf tournament played on their 18-hole natural greens putting course, and if that's not enough, a horseshoe tournament on their sanctioned pits. Not to be outdone Chris Henderson has planned a special ladies' luncheon with a Las Vegas style fashion show.

Have you ever wanted to have your own personalized wine glass? During the rally friends of mine, Wayne & Betty Cerne, will have a seminar to teach you how to etch your name, initials, or favorite college logo onto wine glasses. They will be furnishing the glasses, and to make it better, we will all sip some wine while we do it!

It's going to be fun! We all hope you can make it.

The rally is limited to 125 coaches and 51 of those are already taken so be sure and go to the website and get your registration in as soon as possible. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.



*Melva & Jim Crimmins,*  
Rally Masters  
623.261.9728



# MONACO INTERNATIONAL CLUB

**Oasis RV Resort, Las Vegas, NV**

**April 10-14, 2019**

**The annual club meeting will be held at this rally.  
Be Sure and Be There!**

\$500

4 Nights Camping with 50amp Full Hookups

Welcome Social

4 Breakfasts

1 Lunch

3 Dinners

Happy Hours

3 Evenings Entertainment

Afternoon Wine Tasting Party

Boche Ball & Long Putt Contests

Horseshoe Tournament

History of Las Vegas Seminar

Afternoon of Karaoke

## ***Options***

Ladies Luncheon & Fashion Show - \$25/person

Etch Your Own Wine Glass - \$10/person

4-Hour Guided Boulder Dam Tour on Thursday - \$40/person

**ONLY 125 RALLY SITES AVAILABLE.  
REGISTER EARLY!**

***Arrangement for early arrival/parking is to be made directly with the Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort at \$50 per night (Monaco rally rate). Call 800-566-4707 for your early parking reservation. Mention that you are attending the Monaco International Rally.***



# 2019 Balloon Festival

## October 9-12

(departing on 13th after morning events)



Over 600 balloons come from around the world to participate in the greatest spectacle of its kind. You won't believe your eyes as 100 or more special shaped balloons take off to create a menagerie in the sky. See Mass Ascensions, Night Glows, Special Shapes Glows, Races, Key Grab Competition, Fireworks, and more. Nearby for your entertainment – Golf, Casinos, Shopping, Fine Restaurants, etc.

We are limited to 80 sites. A wait list will be established. Due to the high demand for sites, there will be: NO REFUNDS unless your cancellation request is mailed or e-mailed by July 15 or your space can be filled from the wait list. If you want confirmation, please enclose a stamped, return addressed envelope.

We will be parking in the VIP West area which is immediately adjacent to the launch site. This will be Dry Camping. There will be no hook-ups. The rally fee includes parking, admission to all ballooning events, welcome social and dinner, one luncheon, two breakfasts and the Bring Your Own Beverage social hour each afternoon before the evening balloon event.

You can register for the 2019 Balloon festival either [online](#) (recommended) or via [written application](#), which you can download and mail with your check. Click [here](#) to check out the Albuquerque official web site and see more of what you'll be a part of when attending the Monaco International Balloon Festival Rally.



# MONACO INTERNATIONAL 2019 BALLOON FIESTA RALLY

Hosted By --- Harry & Sandy Hentschel & Roger & Carol Smalley

**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Wednesday, October 9 – Saturday, October 12, 2019

Departure on Sunday October 13, 2019 after morning ballooning events



## The Balloon Fiesta is the most photographed event in the world.

600 balloons come from around the world to participate in the greatest spectacle of its kind. You won't believe your eyes as 100 or more special shaped balloons take off to create a menagerie in the sky. See Mass Ascensions, Night Glows, Special Shapes Glows, Races, Key Grab Competition, Fireworks, and more. Nearby for your entertainment – Golf, Casinos, Shopping, Fine Restaurants, etc.

There will be NO REFUNDS unless your cancellation request is mailed and post-marked by July 15th or your space can be filled from the wait list. Registration confirmations will be emailed. If you want a confirmation mailed, please enclose a stamped, return addressed envelope.



**Sign up online  
(Preferred)**

at

[WWW.MIRVCLUB.COM](http://WWW.MIRVCLUB.COM)

We will be parked in the VIP West area which is immediately adjacent to the launch site.

**This will be Dry Camping and no hook-ups. However, water and honey wagon are available for a fee.**

### Rally Contacts:

**Harry & Sandy Hentschel**  
719-339-9237 or 719-237-5412  
email: [hands1968@me.com](mailto:hands1968@me.com)

**Roger & Carol Smalley**  
618-593-5352 or 618-537-9999  
email: [rogersmalley@gmail.com](mailto:rogersmalley@gmail.com)  
[carolgriffinsmalley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolgriffinsmalley@yahoo.com)

**Registrar: Sandy Hentschel**  
719-237-5412

Email: [hsh1968@gmail.com](mailto:hsh1968@gmail.com)

## The rally fee includes

Parking, admission to all ballooning events, welcome dinner, one luncheon, two breakfasts and the Bring Your Own Beverage social hour each afternoon before the evening Fiesta activities.

### Sign up Information Required:

- MI Member? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA # \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-MI members must have a MI sponsor attending Rally. MI Sponsor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*All Rally related correspondence will be sent to this e-mail address*

Coach Make \_\_\_\_\_ Coach Length \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_  
(all guests must be preregistered regardless of age)

**Please make checks payable to:**  
**Monaco International Balloon Fiesta Rally**

**Mail to:** Monaco International  
c/o Sandy Hentschel  
3520 Windjammer Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

☐ Please check if this will be your first time at the Balloon Fiesta with Monaco international.

MI Member Coach	2 persons	\$550
MI Member Coach	1 person	\$500
Non-MI Coach	Additional	\$150
Extra person (13 & Above)	each	\$150
Extra person 6-12	each	\$ 90
Extra person under 6 free (but must be registered)		
TOTAL		

## **MI Nominating Committee Report As of December 26, 2018**

The Nominating Committee is looking for MI members that are willing to step up and serve as officers and Regional Directors.

We have one candidate for each of the Seven Officer Positions, however, we would like to present more than one choice and give everyone that is interested the opportunity to have their name on the ballot. Following is the current slate of officer candidates:

President - John P. Jones  
First VP – Dale A. Johnson  
Second VP – Carl Hicks  
Secretary – Carolyn Banks  
Treasurer – Dick Wolfe  
VP of Membership – Lois Tucker  
National Director – Harry Hentschel  
Alternate National Director – Jack Ehlenberg

We are in dire need of candidates for Regional Director as shown (see Regions map on next page):

Region 1 – One position available  
Region 2 – Two positions available  
Region 3 - One position available  
Region 4 – Both positions filled  
Region 5 - One position available  
Region 6 - One position available

You may learn exactly what each position entails by looking at the officer page under Position Descriptions.

Please consider running for a position and serving your club (chapter). If you are interested, please, contact one of the following Nominating Committee Members:

Nancy Wolfe – 941-704-4455 – [dicknancywolfe@aol.com](mailto:dicknancywolfe@aol.com)  
Laura Wyatt – 214-801-8953 – [dwyat@aol.com](mailto:dwyat@aol.com)  
Paulette Jones – 386-965-5233 – [jpjpj@bellsouth.net](mailto:jpjpj@bellsouth.net)

Thank you in advance for your willingness to “step up and serve”!

Nancy Wolfe, Chair Nominating Committee

