

Max Weisberg

JA: Max, tell me a little bit of your background.

MW: I was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA until 2015 when I retired and moved to Bonita Springs, FL.

JA: What about your family? Any siblings?

MW: I have been married to Ellen for 33 years. I actually met Ellen in High School and reconnected with her 17 years after graduation. My older brother, Steven lives in Aventura, FL and my sister, Ruth lives in Sarasota, FL. Steve was the Program Director for the PBS Station in Miami and Ruth produced voice overs and commercials in Philadelphia.

My father worked for the Defense Industrial Supply Center in Philadelphia. My mother was a homemaker and then worked as an Admissions Officer at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. Later in life, she worked as a simulated patient for medical students. My mother was a very outgoing person, which is where I got my sense of humor and personality.

JA: Tell me about your education and work background.

MW: I attended Philadelphia public schools and graduated from Penn State University with a B.A. in Communications and Theatre Arts.

After college I worked in sales for Automotive Warehouse Distributors, selling wholesale automotives parts. At 35 years of age, I decided to accept a position with the Federal Government with all its benefits. For 28 years, I worked for the Department of Defense at the NAVSUP-Weapons System Support in Philadelphia, PA.

JA: Were you employed as a Civilian? And can you describe some of your responsibilities

MW: I worked as a civilian after receiving my security clearance. My role was to support Navy and Marine Corp Aviation worldwide. I communicated with aircraft carriers and bases throughout the world to provide spare aircraft parts.

Throughout my career I was involved in inventory management, customer operations, readiness support, and repairable management. Towards the end of my career I worked in the Aviation Operations Department Staff Office reporting directly to a senior civilian, Navy captain and Marine colonel.

It was very exciting and quite regimented. I worked with both civilians and military officers. Working in this environment taught me to be prompt, efficient and have a no-nonsense approach to tasks.

JA: I can vouch for your no-nonsense approach. I first met you on an MCA kayak outing and was sure you were from Brooklyn. Do you recall our first meeting?

MW: Well, I remember that you and I had a friendly but in your face kind of conversation. We were on a beach taking a lunch break. I was cooking Hebrew National hotdogs and baked beans on a grill for the guys. You were trying to give me advice on how to run my BBQ.

JA: Tell me about your affiliation with MCA

MW: I absolutely love MCA and consider it a fraternity. Most of my friends are MCA members, whom I consider family. I'll never forget all the phone calls and support from so many MCA members when I was in New Jersey attending to my ill mother.

Presently, I serve on the MCA Board of Trustees and the House and Grounds Committee for the Nina Iser Jewish Cultural Center.

JA: What are some of your activities and interests?

MW: Well, everyone knows that I love FISHING. I also enjoy Kayaking, Pickleball, Bocce, Shooting and Biking.

JA: What is a typical day for you?

MW: I start my day with coffee and watching the morning news. I catch up on my emails and participate in any of the day's MCA activities.

I happen to be quite handy and have a large set of tools in my garage. So, you can always find me puttering on various projects around the house. I am never bored.

JA: As a newcomer to Naples and MCA, you mentioned that all the guys are "PIPs." I never forgot that expression as it is so true and unique to Naples and MCA.

MW: I am glad that you remembered that acronym, a "Previously Important Person." My dear friend, Roger Sirlin, taught me that expression. That is what is so special about MCA members. You will find members who were doctors, lawyers, judges, business owners or who had very prestigious backgrounds, but never mention or boast about them. They're just regular guys.

JA: Do you reside in Naples year-round?

MW: Yes. Ellen and I are full time Florida residents. In the summer, we like to travel, while jumping in and out of Florida. We love to cruise, which allows me to scuba dive. Ellen and I would love to travel to Israel in the near future.

JA: Do you have a favorite restaurant?

MW: Ristorante Caragliano in Naples.

JA: I have heard from some of the MCA members that they were quite surprised to see your serious side when you recently presented the Norman Goldman Award for Outstanding MCA Sportsmanship during an MCA luncheon.

MW: I can kibitz and joke around. There is also a serious side to me. I am a no-nonsense take charge person, but I am always ready to help anyone in need.

On a personal note, I want to tell you that from the moment I met you, you have come across as a person with a big smile, an optimist and one who is not shy to speak his mind which is very refreshing and a great attribute. On behalf of MCA, I am sure that I can say it is truly a pleasure to know you and be your friend.