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THE TOP 55

LESA FRANCE KENNEDY

LEADS OUR LIST OF THE AREA'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE



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THE 55 MOST INFLUENTIAL

By MARK LANE

The most influential people aren't always the names in news story headlines. They're not always the most-quoted personalities. You may not see their faces on TV. Yet they're the ones who set things in motion, make new goals feel possible and get people to show up. This makes influence hard to define, but you know it when you see it at work.

The 55 men and women profiled here are among Volusia and Flagler counties' most influential people. Editors culled the names from almost 300 suggestions made by MyCoast readers, reporters and editors.

And what a range: Men and women who run businesses, educational institutions, volunteer organizations, local governments and nonprofits. Some have roles that can't be described by something as simple as a job title. Some are outspoken and out front. Some work more behind the scenes. They represent a lot of differing views so you probably wouldn't want them all together in the same room.

And this being the kind of area this is, some names from Daytona Beach may be news to readers in DeLand. Some names from Deltona will seem like strange picks to readers in Palm Coast. This made selections even harder.

As a result, there are bound to be omissions, but nobody was left out because the list was done hastily. This took time and the compilation kept growing. Another week and it would have been a top 100 list.

But look at the names that resulted and they'll sound familiar. You've seen them in news stories and on plaques. You may have run into these people yourself. Maybe heard them speak at a cultural event, fundraiser, lecture, luncheon or public meeting. When they did, the room got a little quieter. People paid a little more attention. Their topic seemed to matter more.

Influence like this is hard to pinpoint because it can move through a community in ripples and gain strength as more people respond.

Keep these names in mind as you follow events along our coast over the months ahead and see how well we did.

BRUCE PAGE

AGE
52.

POSITION
President and CEO, Intracoastal Bank.

WHAT MAKES HIM INFLUENTIAL
Page has been an executive with several financial services companies including CEO at Palm Coast-based Intracoastal Bank since its formation in 2007. He says being influential stems from his focus on service, including positions with a wide variety of community and professional organizations such as the

Flagler County Chamber of Commerce and Florida Hospital Flagler.

HIS ADVICE TO OTHERS
Pursue a career in something they are passionate about. “Don’t be afraid to assume leadership positions; we need good leaders.”

SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT HIM
Page loves boating and fishing with friends. “I find the best way for me to relax and get re-energized is to be on a boat or fishing.”

— Aaron London



BARBARA REVELS

AGE
62.

POSITION
Flagler County Commissioner, District 3.

WHAT MAKES HER INFLUENTIAL
Revels grew up in Flagler County and is the granddaughter of a county commissioner and a Flagler Beach mayor. She also is president and owner of Coquina Real Estate and Construction Inc. She has a long history of volunteerism and community service, serving

on local boards and councils.

HER ADVICE TO OTHERS
“Be a good listener. Hear all sides before jumping on the bandwagon,” Revels says. “Be truly fair to all people regardless of what their status is in life.”

SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT HER
Revels is an avid woodworker, building furniture in her home workshop. “But I don’t get to do it much,” she says.

— Julie Murphy



JIM MANFRE

AGE
56.

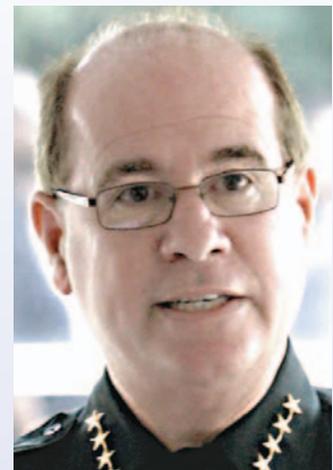
POSITION
Sheriff of Flagler County.

WHAT MAKES HIM INFLUENTIAL
Besides being charged with protecting nearly 100,000 residents, Manfre is on the board of directors of several organizations and agencies including the United Way, the Boys and Girls Club and the Florida Hospital Flagler Foundation.

HIS ADVICE TO OTHERS
Manfre recommends living a life that is community-oriented and selfless. “I see daily the results of selfish and reckless behavior that has consequences to families and members of our community,” he says.

SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT HIM
Manfre is “a big fan of the ‘Walking Dead’ series. For some reason, I have loved zombie movies from the first time I saw ‘Night of the Living Dead’ in high school at the local drive-in.”

— Julie Murphy



D. MELISSA MOORE STENS

AGE
39.

POSITION
Flagler County Judge.

WHAT MAKES HER INFLUENTIAL
Elected in 2012, Moore Stens is Flagler County's only county judge. Her jurisdiction extends to civil disputes involving \$15,000 or less and the majority of non-jury trials in Flagler are handled by her. Additionally, Moore Stens has been influential through her community involvement, including mentoring

youths through the Justice Teaching program, Teen Court and Take Stock in Children.

HER ADVICE TO OTHERS
"Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character."

SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT HER
Moore Stens is an avid yogi. During the past couple years, she attends class about five times per week.

— *Tony Holt*



HELGA VAN ECKERT

AGE
50.

POSITION
Executive director Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity.

WHAT MAKES HER INFLUENTIAL
Van Eckert says any influence she has is because she is surrounded by "the best of the best" and is fortunate to be part of a team that is focused on doing economic development "in a mindful, proactive

matter."

HER ADVICE TO OTHERS
Van Eckert offers an idea from basketball superstar Michael Jordan. "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships."

SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT HER
"I people watch. To some people it's a science in social behavior. To me it's a Saturday afternoon."

— *Aaron London*



MILISSA HOLLAND

AGE
42.

POSITION
Lobbyist for Southern Strategy Group, a statewide group of more than 20 lobbyists with offices across the state.

WHAT MAKES HER INFLUENTIAL
Holland works to shape policy that improves lives, first in Flagler County when she was a county commissioner and now statewide. "I think what makes anyone influential are the people they surround themselves with, peo-

ple that are like-minded but challenge your ideas and concepts," Holland says.

HER ADVICE TO OTHERS
Hold on to your beliefs. "Always stand by what you believe in no matter how difficult, or at times lonely, you can never go wrong and you will earn peoples' respect along the way by doing so."

SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT HER
"I love reading, watching or learning about history," Holland says.

— *Julie Murphy*

