

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES JULY 16, 2024
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 1000 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Len Fouch, 6:01 pm
Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer: Howard Milhoan

Officers Present: Vice Chairman Len Fouch, Treasurer David Flom,
Judge Advocate Tom Westgate, Webmaster Wayne Ehrensberger,
Secretary Sharon Branigan. Exec. Subcommittee:
Al Cauther, Theresa Sadowski

VC Len Fouch advised that Chairman Craig Pierre is out of town on family business.

Wayne Ehrensberger: Presented a comprehensive overview of the McCormick County 250 project. This is federal a project focused on the original 13 colonies that participated in the Revolutionary War but other states are also participating. July 4, 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of Independence. Wayne presented a slideshow of the project background plus some of the historical places and events that were selected for the project in McCormick County. The committee chair, Charlotte Tallent, was present. This is her last meeting with MAVA as she is moving to Alabama. The new Chamber of Commerce director, Renee Robertson, has been working along with the committee and will continue in Charlotte's shoes. (She was not present.) Other MAVA members of this project are Jim Brady, who serves as co-chair and secretary, and also represents the McCormick County Historic commission. Don Moss represents Wellington on the Way. MAVA friends Paula Palaima of the Long Cane Chapter NSDAR, and Barbara Hinkel, are also members. Interested parties who would like to participate are encouraged to talk to Renee, Wayne or Jim.

Jim Brady: Presented a list of coming MC250 events in 2024, 2025 and 2026, concluding with a July 4, 2026 big celebration with a parade.

Charlotte Tallent: Stated that the committee has been meeting for 3 years to work on this project. Wayne and Jim have been instrumental in getting the project moving forward. SC250 (the South Carolina oversight committee) has recognized McCormick County 250 as working with partners both in and outside of our boundaries. There is a need for funding of the Colonial Mill historical marker that the committee has planned. Other items have mostly been funded by public SC250 grants.

Len Fouch: Veterans Memorial Park - Len Fouch and Jim Brady met with Mayor Smith and the manager of C Tech Construction company. The new estimated completion date of the park is September 2024. The contractor will inform Len Fouch when they are ready to place the base for the flag pole in the park so that MAVA can bring the ashes from the recent Flag Retirement Ceremony and bury them under the flag pole in the park.

Len Fouch: Hometown Heroes. - there are 37 banners available; so far 11 applications have been submitted. Contact Melissa Mack with questions. Heroes must be previous or current residents of McCormick County.

Due to a chance meeting on the Tara golf course, Len's wife met the wife of Jim Hudson of Jim Hudson Lexus. They would like to help us support veterans and veterans causes with the golf tournament, by donating a chance to win a Lexus car! More details will follow. Also, the South Carolina Secretary of Veterans Affairs wants to attend our golf tournament.

Theresa Sadowski: Veterans Day Golf Tournament: we need help getting donations of gift certificates as give aways for the raffle. All members are asked to seek help from any persons or businesses that they know, asking them to help us support veterans by donating gift certificates.

Len Fouch: There will be a VA Benefits clinic at the SLV Rec Center on August 29, from 8 am to 3 pm. Approximately 1300 veterans reside in McCormick County. Please tell your veteran friends to plan to attend.

We are seeking volunteers to serve on a MAVA Budget and Finance committee. Please step up to volunteer to work on this important project.

The Modoc VA site is a 20 acre parcel on the lake used by the VA for veterans events. We went last month to help clean up but could not access the pavilion area. They have asked us to bring a group down to paint window sills and clean the pavilion. Please see Len to volunteer.

We still have an opening on the MAVA executive subcommittee, any interested individuals please see Len after the meeting.

We are planning a holiday luncheon for members and spouses and need a committee to organize. Please see Theresa after the meeting to sign up.

Memorial Day Parade or community event - we need volunteers to organize this. Judi Bouchard will help and we need more helpers.

Uniforms: As a non-profit charitable organization we cannot wear our MAVA uniforms for political functions.

Dan Rego: Last month, 84# of food and the 50/50 was donated to the Food Pantry. MAVA is one of only 2 organizations in the community to donate regularly. We are helping make a difference in peoples lives. McCormick County has the largest per capita of veterans in South Caroline - 13% of McCormick County's residents are veterans. Thanks to MAVA for continuing to support those in need.

Joy Sawicki: The June 26 visit to the RC Campbell Veterans home was well attended. Howard donated carved wood crosses for the

veterans receiving the five Quilts of Valor awards. The next visit is on 7/25/24. Jim Costello will place a notice in the Neighborlink.

Paula Palaima: Wreaths Across America program will be on Saturday December 14 at First Baptist Church in McCormick. Veterans from all of the different branches are needed to place wreaths during the ceremony. Please see Paula to participate.

Vickie Leonard: Our local DAR Chapter is donating the funds to place an historical marker for Fort Long Cane as part of the MC250 project. The DAR members are donating money and the marker is almost fully funded.

David Flom/Treasurer: A treasurer report was given. Also August 29 Green Jacket tickets are \$12.00 each, we have to sell 20 tickets to reserve a block of seats. The 50/50 was won by Phil Kinzer and donated back to MAVVA.

Len Fouch: Please encourage veterans that you know to apply for VA benefits. It is very easy to do, see Len if questions. Melissa Mack can help with the process. Len also attended the Palmetto Path course and can help members get started.

Next meeting is August 20 at 6 pm at this location.
Meeting was closed at approx. 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary