

## McCORMICK AREA



## VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES September 17, 2024  
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 1000 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to order: Chairman Craig Pierre, at 6:02 pm  
Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer: Howard Milhoan

Officers present: Craig Pierre, Len Fouch, Howard Milhoan, Sharon Branigan, Wayne Ehrensberger. Exec. Subcommittee: Al Cauther, Theresa Sadowski, Jim Costello, Bryan Richardson.

Len Fouch: Met with MAVA member Jim Brady and McCormick Mayor regarding Veterans Park progress. Still have no information of when park will be completed. Contractor recommends putting flag ashes into the ground where the base of the flag will be. Good news is all the monuments and benches are in local storage in the city's possession.

Jim Brady: Reported that the budget committee is working on a budget for the next year and will have it completed soon.

Wayne Ehrensberger: our MAVA website has information regarding veterans assistance and benefits page. Sign up for from our website for email updates from the VA.

Craig Pierre:

1. Apology that we did not organize a POW/MIA ceremony prepared for this year, POW/MIA day is September 20. Will have a formal ceremony for next year. Judi Bouchard will lead the organizing of the event. Jim Brady has ordered a POW/MIA flag, pole, etc to add to our formal flag set.
2. Golf tournament: 42 players have signed up. Sponsorships are still available. Craig, Theresa, and Buddy Reeves are going to Greenwood Thursday to seek sponsors. Please encourage friends and members to sign up for the golf tournament. We have a sponsor who is funding the addition of a Hole in One contest, prize is a new golf cart. Be sure to

mention this when recruiting more players. HiO will be on hole 6, must drive from white tee. 4 witness/volunteers are needed for this event.

3. Craig, Theresa, Wayne and Bryan served as Color Guard at the DAR Bell Ring event today, in honor of Constitution Day.

4. A flag retirement ceremony will be held October 12, same protocol as the last one, at the fire station on Holiday Road. Ashes will be collected on 10/13 and a burial at sea will be performed on Lake Thurmond. Jim Brady will lead this event.

5. 12/7/24 is the McCormick Christmas parade, Len needs volunteers to act as marshals to keep order in the lines and keep things moving safely. MAVA member Dave Krieger mentioned that the SLV Car Club will be participating, and invited MAVA members to ride along with the Car Club drivers. See him to sign up.

6. Wreaths Across America (WAA) ceremony is on December 14, 2024.

7. On Thursday 9/19, volunteer Jodi Van Giesen will be at the Rec Center for golf tournament signups, and accepting gifts/snacks for the veterans at the RM Campbell Veterans Home.

8. Welcome to new member Stacy Thompson, U.S. Army veteran.

Theresa Sadowski:

1. Meeting with new Executive Subcommittee members Wednesday at Rec Center for planning. She has received 96 \$10 gift certificates from Edwin Watts for our tournament giveaways, they are printed with MAVA's name on them.

2. MAVA holiday dinner signup sheet, see her after meeting. Visions and Dreams will cater, cost is \$20 per person. Total catering cost is \$1113 and we need to deposit 50% with our contract.

Dinner will be at LCBTL on December 10, in place of the monthly board meeting. BYOB, beer and wine, and bring 1 wrapped "Yankee Swap" wrapped gift per couple, must be something new (not used.) Deadline for catering payment is December 1. Menu is Roast beef, chicken, salad, potatoes, broccoli casserole, roll, butter. Craig Pierre moved to spend \$587 for a 50% deposit for catering, Len Fouch seconded, vote was 100 percent in favor.

3. The previously scheduled yard sale for this fall, is being postponed to next spring. Will update in future.

Len Fouch:

1. Will write up rules for golf tournament. Member Tim \_\_\_\_\_ suggested using red tees for golfers over 80 years old.

2. There will be a POW/MIA ceremony at the Rec Center at 8 am on Friday, September 20. Please plan to attend.

Jim Costello:

Need volunteers at the golf tournament for games sales, drink tokens.

Theresa has sign up sheet.

2. On 9/11, several people went to the Campbell Veterans Home, it was a good visit. They need more people to attend, next visit is October 28, please plan on coming. They try to meet with each veterans. Some veterans are requesting reading glasses 2.5 magnification. Also snacks are very welcome.

Buddy Reeves: Greenwood Veterans Day Parade is on 11/3/24, MAVA members are welcome to join, at the South Main Baptist Church at 2 pm. Rain date is 11/10/24.

Gary Zoldwoski: Recommended reading "The War on Warriors" by Pete Hegseth.

Dave Krieger: Heads up to veterans, the ads on FB re disability are a scam, do not apply. Instead, contact Melissa Mack, our VA Veterans Affairs Officer, she will help you apply for free.

Jim Brady won the 50/50 and donated funds back to MAVA.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary