

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Monthly Member Meeting Minutes - November 19, 2024 at Lutheran Church by the Lake

Call to Order: Chairman Craig Pierre, 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer: Howard Milhoan

Officers Present: Craig Pierre, Len Fouch, Howard Milhoan, David Flom, Sharon Branigan, Wayne Ehrensberger, Theresa Sadowski, Jim Costello, Brian Richardson, Harry Klug

Craig Pierre:

Hometown Heroes slots are all full and posters are up downtown.

MAVA Board decided we should form 501(c)3, Matt Dove offered a discounted rate of \$400 plus fees/expenses.

Veterans Day golf outing was a huge success, 112 golfers registered, aprx \$14,500 raised.

Board will create a Golf Committee Chairman position to lead the next tournament.

Greenwood Veterans Day parade was 11/3 and had a good showing.

Craig meeting with Pastor Van Dyke on 11/20 am to discuss church involvement opportunities with MAVA.

Next mini-flag retirement will be at LCBTL and ashes will be interred at church columbarium at church's request.

Sign up for Holiday Dinner Dec 12 5:30-8:30 pm, beer will be provided, bring wine if you wish, see Theresa to sign up and pay.

Wreaths Across America asked MAVA to be the 2025 sponsor for the program, member Paula Palaima made an appeal. Membership voted, all in favor, one abstained.

Dec 7 McCormick Christmas parade, Len has recruited three MAVA members to help as Marshalls - Harry Klug, Brian Richardson, John Yerdon.

Still working on membership rules (bylaws), consider an amendment to membership eligibility to include spouses and widows, as associate or

auxiliary, details TBD. We have 79 current members and room to expand. Jim Costello suggests expansion to include non-veterans as members. Paula Palaima suggest allow voting privileges to auxiliary members. Jim Brady states that is up to the “body”.

January - leadership position nominations will be open for 4 positions - Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary. Also need a volunteer to fill Judge Advocate position. Voting will be at the February member meeting and installation of new officers will be in March.

Starting January 1, 2025, MAVVA will be operating with a written annual budget. Budget to be published during December.

Theresa Sadowski:

Golf outing was a huge success, thank you to all volunteers, we need you again next year.

Please see (her) to sign up for holiday dinner.

Len Fouch:

Spoke with mayor about taking over the Veterans Park project. New issue: a new ground survey has found a 12” pipe underground where the memorial is to be placed. Public Request for Proposal (RFP) rules must be followed. Cost approx. \$170,000, this is not in the original grant. RFP requires 90 days for bid. Mayor indicates he will call Len for help in future. Still no timeline.

See Len for golf tournament scores.

Jim Brady:

Suggests taking the flag ashes from the previous retirement and having a burial at sea for them on Lake Thurmond, instead of waiting on the Veterans Park. We will have enough ashes from future retirement ceremonies to place under the memorial when the time comes.

Phil Kinzer:

Toys 4 Tots has 2 bins, 1 at the SLV Rec Center and 1 at Monticello Golf Club. Most needed items are for ages 0-2. Also new unwrapped toys for 0-12 are accepted. Will bring a box to our Holiday dinner. All toys collected at our local T4T program stay in McCormick County.

Jim Costello: Campbell Veterans Home visit is tomorrow 11/20, 8 am at Rec Center. 10 people have RSVPd. Looking for volunteers to lead an

“Adopt a Unit” program as there are 5 units at the home. Total 210 veterans. Would make it easier and more productive to have individuals to cover the units.

Member Harry _____ who leads the Savannah River Singers program encouraged members to attend upcoming concerts and brought tickets for purchase; him after meeting.

David Flom, Treasurer:

December 6 is the downtown holiday Christmas Tree lighting event. Green Curtains is performing Polar Express at 6 pm followed by tree lighting.

Deadline to pay for holiday party is December 1.

50/50 \$71, donated back to MAVVA

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary