

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Monthly Meeting Minutes, January 21, 2025 at Lutheran Church By The Lake

Call to Order: Chairman Craig Pierre, 6:05 pm

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Craig Pierre

Opening prayer: Pastor Greg Van Dyke

Officers present: Craig Pierre; Len Fouch; David Flom; Sharon Branigan;
Wayne Ehrensberger; Theresa Sadowski; Harry Klug

Old Business: Craig Pierre: 4/26 we are planning a mini flag retirement at LCBTL. Jim Brady will be asked to lead.

Disbursement from 2024 Veterans Day golf outing: \$16981. has been disbursed to our sponsored charities: Anderson Veterans Home, and Gary Sinise Foundation.

MAVA Holiday Dinner was a great success. We will have another holiday dinner next Christmas season.

A 2025 budget was presented to the Board on 1/14/25 and approved.

Catalyst Awards: Brian Richardson brought this to the Board's attention. A Veterans Administration program has a contest to award 10 community based non-profit veterans programs, prize is \$10,000.00 each. Our organization meets the requirements. We need a committee to work on writing an application/proposal, to compete for one of the ten awards. An overview of the contest can be seen online at challenge.gov .

Brian and Len will lead, other volunteers: Theresa Sadowski, Jim Brady, Craig Pierre. Unofficial vote taken among members present; all in favor, none opposed.

Craig passed around a sample ballot of candidates to fill the board positions for the next term. Members are encouraged to run for a position. A vote will be taken at the February 18 member meeting.

Current candidates are: Chairman: Len Fouch. Vice Chairman: Brian Richardson. Secretary: Sharon Branigan. Treasurer: Jim Brady. Judge Advocate: Craig Pierre. Exec. Subcommittee Chair: Jerry Wishall. Quartermaster: Gary Zoldowski. Golf Committee: need candidates.

WWIAF Wounded Warrior in Action Foundation: is a program for outdoor adventures for Purple Heart Veterans. They have asked us to consider them for sponsoring. Minimum donation is \$1000. Please consider them as a future organization to support through golf outing funding. Our main support organizations will remain the Sinise Foundation and the Anderson Veterans Home.

Golf Outing (Veterans Day Event): We need a committee chairman and volunteers to successfully run our 2025 event. All members please consider stepping up for this important fundraiser.

Yard Sale fundraiser: Brian Richardson is working on a location, possibly the Talmadge Center parking lot. A June 7 date is tentatively set.

SLV Open House is on May 17, we need 4 volunteers - two, two-man 2 hour shifts. Volunteers please see Craig.

Memorial Day 2025 - Federal Holiday is Monday, 5/26; we will hold a flag ceremony at the River Grill, and would like a large turnout of MAVA members in uniform. Then on 5/30, the actual date of Memorial Day, we will hold a flag ceremony at the Rec Center, again, please attend in uniform.

2025 Mc Cormick Valor Award: candidate nominations are being accepted, please consider candidates that we can recommend.

501(c)3: Craig is waiting to get an appointment with Matt Dove so we can proceed with 501(c)3 status.

Len Fouch: Veterans Memorial Park update: Spoke w/ mayor. Still delayed on progressing, due to aforementioned unexpected pipes, lines, wiring, etc. A 10-12" water line was discovered in the park area. It has finally been replaced and needs testing. The hope is that work on the monument will begin soon. Monument, benches, bricks are in storage awaiting placement. Len again asked the mayor to call on him if any assistance is needed in any way.

Associate memberships are now being accepted to join MAVA. The snow tonight gave us a small turnout. We will begin taking applications at the next member meeting on February 18.

Update on member Howard Milhoan: Has been hospitalized with respiratory and other problems; is being moved to Greenwood Rehab. Consider visiting him at 1530 Parkway Road, Greenwood. 864-330-1800. It would raise his spirits and help him heal.

Gary Zoldowski: We can now get American flags sewn onto our uniform shirts for the cost of \$7.00 each. Please see Gary.

Wayne Ehrensberger: All 86 golf tournament photos are now on the MAVA website. Feel free to send more Holiday dinner photos, in jpeg format please.

Jim Brady: Keep 7/12/25 open - we need MAVA members to attend the MC250 ceremony and festival for the 250th anniversary of the Surrender of Fort Charlotte to a Patriot force. Events will take place at 3 venues: SC Governors School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, also a RevWar site; Hester's Bottoms Campground, site of the Fort Charlotte Memorial Site; and Willington. More information can be found online at: <https://mc250.org>

David Flom: Treasurers update: A big thank you to our 2025 budget committee, Jim Brady, Paula Palaima, and Karen Weiss, thank you for your hard work. Dues are ongoing, if you aren't sure if you are paid up please ask David.

Paula Palaima: Wreaths Across America - the BOGO sale from 12/14/24 to 1/17/25 was a big success. We have 365 wreaths that were sponsored during this event. Our BOGO total is down from 403 last year but we are in great shape for 2025. We have received \$911 in commission so far. Paula would like to add another cemetery to our program. Interested parties contact Paula.

Gail Clancy: is the new rep for the Mc Cormick Food Pantry since Dan Rego has moved away. She co-manages with Mary Davidson. In December 2024, 150 families (306 people) were served. 130 were seniors, 89 were children. 26 large families (four or more) were served. The Pantry distributed 77# meat, 579# bakery, 34# groceries, and produce. MAVA contributed 180# of goods to the Food Pantry at our December Holiday party. In 2024, 2400 families were served. Able bodied volunteers are needed to help load cars on Tuesday from 10 am to 1 pm. Also need volunteers on the 4th Tuesday from 8:30 am - 1 pm, and the 1st Monday of the month to pick up orders from Food Lion. The Pantry can accept donations of food up to six months after the expiration date on the package! Please contact Gail with questions or to volunteer. Phone 864-374-8505, email clancyg@wctel.net

50/50 drawing was won by Len Fouch who donated the money back to MAVA.

Meeting was closed at 7:26 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary