

## McCORMICK AREA



## VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Member Meeting Minutes    March 18, 2025  
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 1000 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: Chairman Len Fouch, 6:05 pm

Pledge of Allegiance: Len Fouch. Opening Prayer: Bryan Richardson

Officers Present: Chairman Len Fouch, Vice Chairman Bryan Richardson, Judge Advocate Craig Pierre, Quartermaster Gary Zoldowski, Secretary Sharon Branigan, Exec Sub Committee: Jim Costello, David Flom, Harry Klug, Judi Bouchard, Jerry Wishall.

Welcome two new members and a visitor. Bill Castle: USMC; Associates Barbara King (Jim Costello) and Barbara Wishall (Jerry Wishall). Visitor Frank Ramey(?) Retired Army, who is trying to start a MAVA-like group in Greenwood.

Len Fouch:

1. Thank you Harry Klug & Craig Pierre for their excellent Leadership over the last four years.
2. New committee members elected at the February meeting:

Executive Committee: Chairman: Len Fouch, Vice Chairman: Bryan Richardson, Secretary: Sharon Branigan, Treasurer: Jim Brady, Judge Advocate: Craig Pierre, Chaplain: Howard Milhoan, Webmaster: Wayne Ehrensberger, Quartermaster: Gary Zoldowski

Executive Sub-Committee: Jim Costello, David Flom, Jerry Wishall, Harry Klug, Judi Bouchard, Theresa Sadowski

3. 501(c)19 progress: Len, Bryan and Jim met to work on the MAVA non-profit application. Documents and fees were submitted. Cost was \$600. Waiting for approval from IRS, then we will file the SC State paperwork.
4. Mini flag retirement will be held at LCBTL at 10 am on 4/22/25. Several members volunteered to help with the event.

Craig Pierre:

1. 5/26 is Memorial Day golf outing at Tara. (Not a tournament.) Need volunteers for flag ceremony and to move flags to the Overlook. 5/30 we will have a flag ceremony at 8 am at the Rec Center.
2. Nov. 10 is the Veterans Day Golf Tournament fundraiser at Hickory Knob. Need 3 or more volunteers for the golf committee. Committee meets on 3/26 (Wednesday) at Rec Center Calhoun Room from 11 to 12.
3. New Food Pantry representative is Paula Palaima.

Bryan Richardson:

1. Yard sale on 6/7 at Talmadge center from 9 to 1. Fuller will pick up unsold items after. We can use their truck to transport items to the sale. USMC League will set up a table, and we hope to have a Bloodmobile on site.

2. SLV resident and veteran Art Ferguson passed. Melissa Mack connected his widow Sharon with MAVA. She donated medical goods and durable equipment no longer needed. Some durable goods were distributed to a veteran in Plum Branch. We need to assist her with cleanup after pollen season. MAVA gave her a plaque for Art's military funeral flag.

Jim Costello:

1. A group of ten went to the VA home on 3/17. Next visit is Monday 4/7. Please join us if you can. It is an uplifting experience.
2. Hospital needs another bookshelf, we bring lots of books each month.

Joy Sawicki: In need of more birthday cards for the vets as her supply is running low.

Wayne Ehrensberger: Website is updated with current events.

Vickie Leonard DAR: All are invited to DAR meeting on 3/20 at 1 pm at the library, speaker is Dr. Cliff Cain, subject is Hildegard of Bingen: A 12th Century Woman ahead of her time. Also, see Vickie for DAR bracelets.

Paula Palaima: Presented a check to MAVA for \$200 which is commission earned on Wreaths Across America sponsorships so far. Paula explained the WAA program and mission.

Len Fouch:

1. Beware of fake emails from any MAVA officers or members, there were scam emails going around with our names, now Pastor Van Dyke's name is being used.
2. Veterans Memorial Park : Len tried to reach the mayor several times to no avail.
3. See Quartermaster Gary Zoldowski for uniform shirts and hats.
4. Len and Bryan are attending the Palmetto Pathfinder seminar on 4/30 in Columbia.
5. Buddy Reeves brought a flyer about a summer "Vietnam Vet to DC" tour. Cost is \$600. See Buddy for details.
6. PLUS Act, going to House of Representatives, research it and call your Reps and Senators as you see fit. Basically- accountability, protection from predatory "helpers" who take advantage of veterans.
7. Before you leave tonight please make sure we have your name and contact info.
8. Tell your friends and neighbors we are accepting new members and associate members.

David Flom: 50/50 - Winner: Walt, donated back to MAVA.

Craig Pierre moved to close meeting; David Flom second; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary