

## McCORMICK AREA



## VETERANS ASSOCIATION

### MAVA MEMBER MEETING MINUTES APRIL 15, 2025 at Lutheran Church by the Lake

Call to Order: JAG Craig Pierre 6:04 pm

New members/visitors: Jim St. Pierre (Army), Keith and Gloria (Dern?)  
Navy

Pledge of allegiance and opening prayer: Chaplain Howard Milhoan

Officers present: Chairman Len Fouch, Vice Chairman Bryan Richardson,  
Judge Advocate Craig Pierre, Treasurer Jim Brady, Secretary Sharon  
Branigan, Wayne Ehrensberger, Jim Costello, David Flom, Harry Klug,  
Jerry Wishall, Judi Bouchard, Al Cauther.

Len Fouch introduced guest speaker Sheriff Chad Cox. Sheriff Cox introduced Johnna Joly, his assistant in his outreach program. He spoke of the Outreach Program and also encourage members to attend the Coffee and Conversation meeting this Saturday morning featuring our new House Representative Sheri Biggs. Rep. Biggs introduced her first bill into the House, a bill to support veterans. Also the Sheriff is sponsoring a Coffee & Conversation breakfast on 12/22/25 at 08:30 at the Rec Center to honor all Mc Cormick veterans, all are encouraged to attend. Len Fouch mentioned that Mc Cormick County has the highest percentage of veterans in residence in the state of South Carolina. Palmetto Pathfinders and other programs help veterans with problems and with transitioning to civilian life. See Len or Bryan for more info.

Old Business:

Craig Pierre:

1. Memorial Day golf outing and opening ceremony is Monday 5/26 at Tara at 08:30. 10 am is shotgun start. Need 10 volunteers to handle the flags. Official Memorial Day is 5/30 and a flag raising ceremony will be

held at 8:00 am at the Rec center, also need 10 volunteers. See Craig after the meeting to help.

Jim Brady:

1. The 501(c)19 is for military organizations. We are official now and can take any
2. The food pantry has a list of needs, specific needs now are pinto beans, large kidney beans, and bar soap. Please consider bringing a non-perishable item to MAVA meetings.
3. Flag retirement ceremony is 4/22 at this church, from 10 to 11:30 am. This is a mini-retirement, not open to the public.

Bryan Richardson:

1. Yard sale is 6/7/25 at Talmadge Center starting at 9 am. Flyers will be on Nextdoor and Link. We will have the Fuller Group truck Friday night to move goods from storage to the yard sale area. All leftover goods will be donated to Fuller. Please come at 7 am to help organize.

Len Fouch:

1. Theresa suggested that once our storage locker is cleaned out we should use it as a medical loan program lending medical equipment to local vets as needed. Fuller will give us any medical equipment that they receive as donations.

Jim Costello:

1. Veterans Home visit was 4/7, six people attended. Next visit is 5/9, please consider spending a few hours visiting with the veterans, you will really enjoy it and it means a lot to them. Jim would like to organize an adopt-a-ward program so every vet gets a visit once a month. There are 5 wards, 210 rooms. 2 wards are covered, so we need to have 3 more wards "adopted". Also need birthday cards for veterans, if you have any unused birthday cards please donate them to MAVA.

Gary Zoldowski:

1. Uniform shirt prices are increasing, see him for uniforms.

Paula Palaima:

1. Wreaths Across America - Paula presented a check from WAA to MAVVA for \$755.00 this is the commission that our WAA sales generated during the WAA BOGO-A-GOGO from 12/14/24 to 1/15/25. Sales will slow now and we will start promoting again in September. Add this \$755 to the \$195 previously presented. WAA has generated \$950 in commissions to help offset the expense of the WAA ceremony (locations charge around \$300) and replacing aging equipment.

#### New Business:

##### Judi Bouchard and Jerry Wishall

1. Judi and Jerry are the point contacts - any veteran that needs help, call them. If you need a ride to the doctor or some other assistance. Asked for another volunteer to help; Karen Weiss volunteered. Thank you, Karen.

##### Len Fouch:

1. Veterans Memorial Plaza update, spoke with mayor; road in front of town hall will be raised possibly starting in the next 30 days. Town hall is still accepting BRICK orders until May 5. All our previously sold bricks, and previously purchased benches, monuments etc, are in storage awaiting park preparation. Estimated completion date of the Veterans Memorial Plaza: April 2023.
2. We need a new Facebook page manager, if anyone has the desire and ability please see Len.
3. April 30 the SC Dept of Veterans Affairs is holding a conference in Columbia. Len and Bryan are attending, see Len if you would like to go.
4. Pointed out our new banner (hanging next to the podium)

##### Buddy Reeves:

1. The Vietnam Veterans to DC - Washington DC tour, from 7/25/25 to 7/25/28, is open to anyone who wants to go. Cost is \$590. See Buddy for more details.

Jim Brady: 50/50, total is \$50. Ticket 217542.

Motion to close the meeting was made and seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary