

## McCORMICK AREA



## VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Member Meeting Minutes September 16, 2025  
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 1000 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Bryan Richardson, 6:05 pm

Len Fouch: Welcome members and guests

Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Prayer: "A Prayer for our Vets", moment of silence For Those Who Did Not Return : Chaplain Howard Milhoan

Visitors: Bill Updegraff, US Army, 24 year SLV resident

Chad Astin(?), US Army, 6 months SLV resident

Guest Speaker: George Elmore, Friends of the Sheriff :

Mr. Elmore recounted the need of funds for ammunition for our Mc Cormick County deputies to practice/maintain proficiency in firearms. The County does not offer funding for this critical need. Our LEOs put on bulletproof vests and risk life and limb every day. Friends of the Sheriff invites all MAVA members, families, and friends, to help support the need for \$1500 each month to keep our LEOs proficient. FOS members may pledge \$120 annually (\$10 per month), or any amount as able, to support this worthy cause. Checks may be mailed to the

Mc Cormick County Sheriff's Department, 211 W. Augusta St. Ext., Mc Cormick, SC 29835. Attn: Sheriff Cox, Friends of the Sheriff. Donations may also handed to Sheriff Cox, any deputy, or dropped off at the station.

Guest Speaker: Probate Judge John Gray, presented several handouts regarding subjects of interest to seniors: Avoiding probate by properly titling real property, properly naming your bank and financial accounts, naming beneficiaries on certain accounts, creating a trust if desired. Judge Gray also addressed issues such as daily exercise, dementia, and offered ways to keep the mind active and busy with brain games. He also shared a smoothie recipe for a healthy brain and body. He encourages everyone to Find God - Find Peace.

Handouts in file.

#### Old Business:

Len Fouch: We have received official verification from IRS that we are officially a 501(c)19 organization, effective 2/25/25. Treasurer Jim Brady has the official letter.

Theresa Sadowski: Veterans Day Golf Tournament: So far we have received \$5000 in sponsorships. Lowe's Greenwood has donated \$1300 worth of auction items and gift cards. But- only 12 foursomes have signed up so far. Deadline to sign up is 10/27/25. Please encourage all your friends and enemies to sign up to support our main fundraiser of the year. MAVA Holiday Dinner is on Dec. 7, here at LCBTL, from 5 pm to 9 pm. BYO Beer or Wine. Cost TBD.

Bryan Richardson: 10 MAVA members came out to help Ron and Joann clean up their yard and get it under control. They are very grateful for the help. Vets helping Vets!

POW/MIA Recognition day is this Friday, Sept. 19. A flag ceremony and Missing Man setup will be held at the Rec Center at 8 am. Please attend if possible.

Fuller House building is being worked on, no details yet.

#### New Business:

Joy Sawicki: Veterans Home visit, next visit is Friday 9/19. Meet at Rec Center, we will leave after the POW/MIA ceremony.

Judi Bouchard: Vets for Vets - Please let Judi know of anyone who can't come to meetings and she'll reach out to see if we can help with a ride or assistance.

Jim Costello: Lowe's Greenwood has asked our help with their Heroes Project. Sgt. Henry Banks of Mt. Carmel, SC has been identified as in need of assistance with home repairs and yard cleanup. On Tuesday, October 7, MAVA members are requested to arrive at 9 am at 355 SC 823 N, Mt. Carmel, to help with yard cleanup. Please wear long sleeve pants, shirts, wear eye protection, hats, and bring a water bottle. Also bring yard equipment. Lowe's will be handling the home repairs of staircase demo and rebuilt, gutters and drainage, fascia and soffit rewrap, and more. Lowe's has donated a new patio set for Sgt. and Mrs. Banks. Please come

out to show our appreciation of Lowe's for their continuing support, and for Sgt. and Mrs. Banks.

Also: We need a volunteer to help befriend a local Navy veteran in SLV whose wife has dementia and could use a visit. A Navy vet would be helpful.

Gary Zoldowski: See Gary to purchase uniform shirts, hats, patches, etc.

Paula Palaima: Last month's pantry donations brought in 101 pounds of food from MAVA. We think the "wish list" that we sent out was very helpful to the Pantry, and will try to continue sending it a week before the member meeting.

Wreaths Across America: A wreath sale was held on 9/11 but we weren't staffed so only received 3 wreath orders. However a resident did donate \$100 to MAVA. We will use the money to purchase new flags to replace the 4 year old worn and torn flags that we use to honor the veterans in our local cemeteries on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Also Paula needs Veteran volunteers for the WAA ceremony, she has an AF vet, needs a vet from each branch of the military. See her to volunteer.

Dave Kriger: SLV Car Club Parade is on Christmas day and they would like to have veterans join them in riding with car club members. See Dave for more info.

Len Fouch: MAVA needs a Facebook administrator, please see Len. Melissa Mack contacted MAVA regarding Hometown Heroes banners. Veterans are encouraged to contact Melissa to sponsor a banner for themselves or any veteran of their choosing.

Veterans Memorial Plaza will be completed by September 2023.

50/50 - \$51 ticket 912174

Bryan Richardson moved to close meeting; Howard Milhoan second. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary