

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Monthly Meeting Minutes, April 18, 2023

Call to Order/ Roll Call: All officers present

Opening Prayer: Howard Milhoan

Pledge of Allegiance

Craig opened with updates on Ball game, Blood Drive and LCBTL Festival & Yard sale.

Floor was opened up to officers:

Len:

- Firing range Rangers needed for ROTC
- Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Award Ceremony will be held at the Cotton Gin on 5-11. MAVA sponsoring a table (seen Len for tickets) Three awards to be given to Deputy Sheriffs
- Will ask Cisco about Memorial day golf event

David:

- Wear a MAVA shirt to the ball game and meet at RC at 5 to the car pool.
- Update on finances

Wayne:

- MAVA Shirt & Jacket Order Form linked to website
- Updated MAVA Informational Flyer also linked
- Toccoa, GA "D-Day"/June 03 Info linked
- Still awaiting impact of SLV's system software upgrade on our site
- 4-19 Patriots Day, 5-3 Armed Forces Day

Shout outs to:

- Don Mott for helping a local widow
- Anonymous donation of \$100
- DAR for purchasing our flag covers

Speaking of flags, Jim Brady gave a dissertation on the correct, yet controversial, display of the service flags

Craig turned the meeting over to Mike Carey and Eric Bryant from Charlie Norwood VA Medical facility.

Mike was curious about where MAVA vets were getting their medical needs attended and presented a proposed VA Medical clinic in Athens. He went on to say the VA is pushing hard for medical staffers at the facilities. The VA trains more medical professionals than any other organization.

Mike mentioned there are around approximately 1200 vets in the area and only a small percentage are signed into the system. An interesting statistic is every time a new vet signs up for services \$3500 gets allocated in additional benefits for that area. He was asking for our cooperation to have an open house with the many divisions of Charlie Norwood in attendance. Example: Suicide prevention, pharmacy, benefits, etc. Jim Brady offered the Cotton Gin as the venue since it would offer a central location and a good time would be in the fall.

Some of the vets expressed concern over the phone system and both Mike and Eric confirmed this is the #1 complaint about the system.

There was a lot of chatter about the PACT act and you can become an expert by logging onto: https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=paid_search&utm_campaign=ar_pact_fy23_veterans&gclid=CjwKCAjwl6OiBhA2EiwAuUwWZUKu4FWLeuvCD0EfSkijAs7xijlcLJn4VmeDegJwqdpMfdelww_NmxoCxQsQAvD_BwE

A Cliff notes version would be something like:

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits. You can also call [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

On the agenda and tabled until next meeting were bi-laws (membership, auxiliary, honorary).

Respectfully Submitted
Paul Doyle
MAVA Secretary