

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA General Meeting Minutes, June 20, 2023
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 100 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: Chairman Craig Pierre, 6:03 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Prayer : Craig Pierre

Officers present: Craig Pierre; Vice Chairman Len Fouch, Judge Advocate Tom Westgate, Treasurer David Flom, Webmaster Wayne Ehrensberger
Exec. Committee Alex Cauther

Craig:

Invited first-time attendees to stand and introduce themselves. Three new members joined: Dave Lorenzatti, Buddy Reeves and Johnnie Johnson. Visitor: Sharon Branigan.

Three members rose to the challenge at Camp Toccoa at Currahee, GA D-Day 10K. MAVA will do it again next year.

Reminders:

Trip to SC Military Museum in Columbia on July 27

Blood drive on September 11 at 12:00 noon at LCBTL

Flag retirement ceremony (no picnic) rescheduled to July 5 at 11 am at 429 Gilchrist Ferry Rd., Modoc. Craig Asked for 6 volunteers to help clean up the site on June 29.

Craig asked if any MAVA members would volunteer as Secretary to record meeting minutes. No members responded. Position offered to Sharon Branigan, who accepted.

Guest presenter: Ron Garling ; related the story of the USS Forrestal and the devastating fire of 1967 which killed 134 crew members and injured 184. In 2017, Ron attended the 50th anniversary ceremony of the event in Arlington, VA ; 720 people attended the event.

Treasurer David Flom:

June dues are almost caught up. Expenses paid: Insurance policy premium and picnic expenses.

Webmaster Wayne Ehrensberger:

As MAVA's website is hosted on SLV's system, the SLV software upgrade required that MAVA's website be reconstructed. The latter is now complete aside from a few technical issues to be work out.

MAVA's site now contains MAVA only content along with some new features.”

Members may need to delete old apps and start anew to access new site; see Wayne if questions or problems. Browser search “ mccormickareavets.org “ will take you to the new site. Email is mccormickareavets@gmail.com

Wayne reminded group that there is a scheduled visit Wednesday morning 6/22 to the Anderson SC Veterans home.

Member Bob Leonard:

Bob Advised that on 7/11/23 there is a group visit to the Anderson SC Veterans home which includes MAVA members, the McCormick Car Club and DAR members. Meet at 8 am at LCBTL; leaving at 8:15. Visit is from 9:30 to 11:30. Bob requests to be advised how many are going so he can confirm with Anderson staff a few days in advance. A list of gift donations is available online if desired.

Wayne and Craig:

Reminded members to review By Laws revisions (membership, associate, honorary) on the website for the next 30 days. A comments section is available. In 30 days the revisions will become effective.

Alex Cauther:

No new report. Encourages members to inform him of any veterans widows/widowers and survivors who could use condolences, or need rides to doctors appointments, and he will assist.

Len Fouch:

JROTC Marksmanship program: McCormick High School would like MAVA to run the program. 7 volunteers are needed to run the firing range. Need a 2:1 ratio. Please write legibly on the sign up list. MAVA will develop the course. Time commitment TBD.

Craig Pierre:

1. Need volunteer to plan the December 7 golf outing at Hickory Knob. Suggested a formal Flag Retirement Ceremony which will need volunteers to read and carry flags.
2. Need two more volunteers for the Executive Sub Committee.
3. Request show of hands, should MAVA meetings move back to the Bridge or stay in the Ark? A near-unanimous show of hands to stay in the Ark.

Len Fouch:

Update on the Veterans Memorial park; Mayor Smith reports they have broken ground on the project. Memorial bricks are still available for the walkway. 116 bricks have been purchased so far.

Donald Moss (County Veterans Affairs Officer) :

1. Thank you for the cards and prayers regarding his brothers passing.
2. A claims clinic is being held on July 15, from 9 am to 1 pm, in Columbia. They will help with any questions or claims.
3. On July 21, from 9 am to 12 noon, Charlie Norwood of Post 19 is holding a VA open house similar to the Columbia event.

4. Announced he is retiring on June 30 as the County Veterans Affairs officer. No replacement has been announced at this time.

Craig Pierre:

Chamber of Commerce reminders :

1. July 8 celebration at Plum Branch from noon until after fireworks
2. July 12 at 8:30 am, Chamber of Commerce breakfast at John de la Howe school.

Harry Klug:

Inquired if there was any report on the results of the Memorial Day golf tournament. Craig has not heard but will check. Harry asked everyone to stay to help return the Ark to its original setup. Len invited members to stay after, for cake provided by John Yeardon, and socializing.

Craig Pierre:

Advised that MAVA now has a liability insurance policy as is required by LCBTL to use their facilities.

Dan Rego:

Offered to be the food pantry liaison, as he is a Food Pantry key holder volunteer; he will deliver the food donations collected at MAVA meetings to the pantry. Offer accepted. (Tom Westgate note: Dan Rego has rejoined our group and has moved back to our village.)

Wayne Ehrensberger:

Reminder of the July 27 SC Military Museum field trip.

Next Board meeting is July 11, 10 am at Howard Milhoans house.

Next MAVA Monthly meeting is July 18 at 6:00 pm at the LCBTL Ark.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Branigan

MAVA Secretary