

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Monthly Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2023
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 1000 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: Chairman Craig Pierre, 6:02 pm,
Followed by Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Officers Present:

Chairman Craig Pierre; Treasurer David Flom, Webmaster Wayne Ehrensberger.

Old Business:

Craig attended the JROTC Marksmanship program orientation with school, tested air rifles. Volunteers must take a mandatory course with 100% correct answers. We have 7 volunteers and need more! If you are familiar with firearms and want to work with the JROTC students at the High School see Craig after the meeting tonight.

Trifold brochures are available at the check in table; please take some, share them with veterans, invite them to attend a meeting.

9/11 blood drive needs 4-5 volunteers. See Craig after meeting.

New Business:

SC Military Museum trip pictures are on the website. Very interesting field trip. We need a writer who went on the trip to write it up for a Shorelines article.

November 9 is the MAVA Golf Tournament at Hickory Knob. Craig has taken the lead. It will be a 9:30 am Shotgun Start. Team sponsorships

are available for \$250 to sponsor a hole. This includes 4 players, at \$55 per person, with \$30 per sponsorship going to the charity recipients of Anderson Veterans Home, and possibly Wounded Warrior Project. Also anyone can sponsor a hole for \$100. Prizes will be given for closest to pin, longest drive, most accurate, putting contest. Mulligans are \$5 each, string birdies are \$15. Food and beverage will be at the turn around 11:30 am. Volunteers are needed to help plan and work the event. IE, hole-in-one witnesses. A rain date will be picked with HK managers help.

December 7 formal flag retirement needs volunteers soon or will cancel. We have 7 volunteers; need 6 more.

MAVA Leadership vacancies will be discussed over the next three months.

Craig is out of town for the September general meeting and the October planning meeting. Harry Klug will step in to cover.

September 11 Blood Drive will be in the community room at the Church since the ARK is already reserved by another group.

9 people indicated interest in a 2024 Memorial Day parade in McCormick.

Greenwood Veterans Day parade is Friday November 10.

David Flom, Treasurer:
Green Jackets baseball trip has been cancelled as not enough interest in attending.

Bank balance \$2638.10, of which \$715 is earmarked for the Anderson Veterans Home.

Wayne Ehrensberger, Webmaster:
The SC Military Museum field trip was a good day, very interesting. The meal after at Docs BBQ was very good and plentiful.

Pictures of the SC Military Museum field trip are now displayed on the website. All photo galleries are now up to date on MAVAs website, MAVAs Homepage on the McCormick Chamber of Commerce website and MAVAs Facebook page. MAVA now has the ability to directly input photos into MAVAs website Photo Gallery.

We need someone to maintain MAVAs Facebook Page in place of Steve Braziel.

Veterans assistance and benefits section is online with good information for Veterans.

Craig:

MAVA is a member of the Chamber of Commerce so MAVA members can attend C of C functions. On August 25, Chamber is sponsoring a Legislative Update luncheon with our legislative reps, Sen. Shane Massey; Sen. Billy Garrett, Rep. Daniel Gibson, and Rep. Craig Gagnon. Tickets are \$20, ticket purchase deadline is August 18, and location of luncheon is Tara River Grille at 11:30 am on August 25.

DAR field trip October 8 to Kings Mountain, NC, to see a play called "Liberty Mountain - The Revolutionary Drama."

Tickets by check are \$37.45, contact DAR to attend.

Update on Veterans Plaza: see attached email from Len Fouch.

Floor opened to questions from members:

Harry Klug asks, do we have a new VA rep yet? Wayne advised Jim Brady was working with the VA, 3 candidates showed up. There is a discrepancy in funding; there is a spotty appointment calendar.

Details are being worked on.

Harry Klug informs us that the VA rep in Abbeville is VERY effective. He suggest claimants contact her for help. Especially Agent Orange veterans. Need your DD-214. She will help you get it if needed. Most local Vietnam Vets are using the Abbeville services.

John Yerdon: Fort Gordon offers a dinner theater that has very good food and entertainment. They have a show in September called "Murder @ Howard Johnsons". Call their box office at 706-793-8552.

Craig asked if anyone is interested in MAVA T-shirts for workday events. Six items (of any kind) are needed to place an order, contact Tom Westgate to order.

Joyce Swiecki reports that the monthly visits to the Anderson Veterans Home could use some more Veterans to come. The seniors at the home respond very enthusiastically to visits by Veterans and it's a very enjoyable visit for our members as well. The next visit is Sept. 21, meet at 8 am at the SLV Rec Center parking lot.

A request was made for veterans to visit a senior veteran named Jack Salisbury at Wesley Commons who would really appreciate veterans as visitors.

Reminder to bring uniforms and memorabilia to the general meeting; just let Craig know. Also working on getting John Gray lined up to do a presentation on Probate Law.

50/50 proceeds were awarded and donated back to MAVA.

Next MAVA board planning meeting is September 12. Next MAVA general meeting is September 19.

September Military Remembrance Days: Sept. 11th Patriot Day, Sept. 15 POW/MIA Recognition Day; Sept. 18, Air Force Birthday.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Branigan
Executive Secretary

