

## McCORMICK AREA



## VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES, SEPT. 19, 2023  
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 1000 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: Chairman Craig Pierre, 6:05 pm  
Followed by Pledge of allegiance, prayer, moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11 led by Howard Milhoan, Chaplain

Officers Present: Chairman Craig Pierre; Vice Chairman Len Fouch; Chaplain Howard Milhoan; Judge Advocate Tom Westgate; Webmaster Wayne Ehrensberger.  
Executive Subcommittee: Alex Cauther, Roger Anderson

Four visitors introduced themselves.

Special Presentation by Probate Judge John Gray, regarding South Carolina probate law, and necessary documentation. Handouts will be scanned and posted on website.

### Old Business:

Buddy Reeves reported on the Greenwood Veterans Day Parade on 11/11/23 - need members to bring some chairs; wear MAVA shirts; parade starts at 1 pm at South Main Methodist Church; then to the Veterans museum. Rain makeup day is 11/12/23.

(Corrections made post-meeting, Wayne confirmed with Veterans Center Hall of Heroes Museum: Parade date Nov. 5 (Sunday), rain date Nov 12. Muster/lineup begins 1:15 at South Main Baptist Church, 1000 South Main St.)

Craig Pierre, Chairman:

1. The 9/11 blood drive he 9/11 blood drive was cancelled by Red Cross after they arrived at SLV and realized they had left a key piece of equipment in Greenwood. They will reschedule.
2. The Veterans Day golf tournament is capped at 72 players (18 teams.) 5 teams are signed up and there are 4 tentative teams that have inquired. The tournament is expected to fill up soon.
3. The 12/7 flag retirement ceremony needs more volunteers. Please see Craig after the meeting to volunteer.
4. 3 people have been interviewed to fill the open Veterans Affairs Officer position vacated by Donald Moss. A replacement has not yet been selected.
5. Phil Kinzer has agreed to coordinate the Toys for Tots campaign.
6. We need a volunteer for the MAVA Facebook page, please see Wayne Ehrensberger.
7. Ron Schulhofer will be resigning as an executive committee member, see Craig to volunteer for the position.

Len Fouch, Vice Chairman:

1. Veterans Memorial Plaza has been delayed due to unidentified pipes and lines in the ground. The issue has now been resolved. Monuments, benches, plaques, are all in storage waiting for completion of the plaza. 130 bricks have been ordered so far.
2. JROTC Marksmanship Program still needs more volunteers, see Len after the meeting.
3. VA Rep Paulette Dunn asked MAVA to stand in for Donald Moss until someone is hired. MAVA can't fill that need but we refer veterans to contact the VA officer in Abbeville.

Tom Westgate, Judge Advocate:

T shirts with the MAVA logo can be ordered if we have a minimum of 25 shirts to order. Price is about \$30. 6 hats have been ordered and will be available soon.

Treasurer: No report. David Flom is on vacation.

Wayne Ehrensberger, Webmaster:

1. Please see Wayne to volunteer as a webpage backup - need experience with website management.
2. Also need a Facebook manager.
3. Abbeville Veterans Affairs contact information is on the website.
4. Fort Gordon theater info is on the website.
5. 9/21 is a visit to the Anderson Veterans home, meet at 8 am at the Rec Center.
6. Probate check list will be posted on the website.

General Announcements:

Buddy Reeves: Monday 11/12 the Golden Corral is offering a free meal to veterans at the Clinton Blvd location in Anderson.

Vickie Leonard, DAR Regent - they are asking DAR members to volunteer for the golf tournament and flag ceremony. Also the Kings Mountain field trip has been cancelled as not enough members showed interest.

Paula Palaima, DAR member, Wreaths Across America coordinator: the ceremony this year is on 12/16/23 at the McCormick Middle School gym. She has requested the mobile museum to return to McCormick in 2024. If so, the museum would be parked at the school complex. The school will try to have all 500 students go through. It will be open to the public after school is out. The 9/11 Wreath sale at the Rec center received 63 more sponsorships. Plum Branch and Old Willington cemeteries have been added to the locations. She has Coast Guard and Air Force volunteers to place wreaths during the formal ceremony. Still need other military branch representatives. October 11 is National DAR Day of Service, DAR will be cleaning headstones at City and Overbrook cemeteries, maybe Plum Branch and Willington. Starts at 9 am. Please see Paula to volunteer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm, attendees invited to stay for cake and coffee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan

Executive Secretary