

## McCORMICK AREA



## VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Member Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026  
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 100 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: JAG Craig Pierre, 6:06 pm  
Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Prayer, Moment of Silence: Chaplain  
Howard Milhoan

Present: Chairman Len Fouch, Vice Chairman Bryan Richardson, JAG  
Craig Pierre, Treasurer Jim Brady, Secretary Sharon Branigan, Webmaster  
Wayne Ehrensberger, Quartermaster Gary Zoldowski, Chairman Emeritus  
Harry Klug, David Flom, Jerry Wishall, John Yerdon.  
Len Fouch introduced 6 new members and 1 visitor.

Len Fouch:

Recap of the accomplishment and events in 2025:

Obtaining IRS non-profit status, Veterans Day Golf Tournament netted  
\$15,660 donated to Gary Sinise Foundation, \$3800 to support the  
personal needs of the veterans who live at the Richard M. Campbell  
Veterans home.

Wreaths Across America - 420 wreaths placed on local graves of veterans.

Flags: members placed flags on local graves of veterans in honor of both  
Memorial Day and Veterans day.

Also flags: 420 flags retired in official ceremonies, and ashes were buried  
in hallowed ground at the Veterans Plaza.

Group visits to the veterans at the veterans home, and attended awards  
ceremonies for Quilts of Valor.

Durable Medical Equipment library being created.

Worked with Lowe's on their Heroes Project helping a local veteran.

Toys for Tots donations drive, member Phil Kinzer organized collection and  
delivery to distribution point.

Vets helping Vets: Helping Mrs. Sharon Ferguson after her husband  
passed, and she donated his equipment to MAVA.

Beginning the process of creating the DME.

Grew our membership from 65 to 114 members.

Brief mention of Service Beyond Service program.

Bob Martin of Lowe's Greenwood will be our corporate sponsor. Thank Bob when you go to Lowe's in Greenwood. See our banner hanging there, take a picture with it and post it to your Facebook page. Let Bob know that we appreciate his partnership!

Len and Bryan attended the Palmetto Pathway seminar regarding veterans resources within South Carolina. SC has recognized MAVA as a veterans coalition and resource organization.

Len and Harry Klug met with Mayor Roy Smith and the Veterans Park contractor David McBee. Mayor expects and opening ceremony with 2-3 weeks. The city will again offer the option to sponsor an engraved brick. Call the city for details.

Looking forward: continue to bring new members and get members involved. Need more members to get involved, volunteer to plan and execute events/outings.

Rob Needham:

Rob is working with OAC regarding field trips for the two groups together.

Bryan Richardson:

Reported on DME progress. Waiting for an MOU with the Fuller Board of Directors before proceeding with any remodeling of facility. Call Bryan if you have anything to donate to the DME program.

Reviewed last years speakers. Contact Bryan to recommend speakers for future meetings. Ms. Endia White of McCormick Communications is scheduled for April.

Craig Pierre:

Presentation of the By-Laws changes. Copies distributed to attendees and changes explained. See attached. Overview: terms and term limits of officers. Added 501(c)19 status. Webmaster and Executive Subcommittee Chairman added as voting officers on the Board. Quorum rule change. Clarifying verbiage added, redundant verbiage removed. Motion to accept changes was made by Dan Antis; second by Bryan Richardson. All in attendance voted in favor.

Jim Brady:

Gave the Treasurer's Report.

Wayne Ehrensberger:

Presentation regarding the America 250 celebration. Revolutionary Roll Call and DAR bell ringing to honor Revolutionary War soldiers. MAVA and the Long Cane Chapter of NSDAR will join together for the RevWar Roll Call 250 as a joint event, calling the Roll and Ringing the Bells in commemoration and to honor all of those who have served, and are serving, and to specifically recognize McCormick County Revolutionary War Veterans. Craig moved that MAVA participate in the Revolutionary Roll Call, David Flom second. All in attendance voted in favor.

Sharon Branigan:

Huge thanks/round of applause for Craig Pierre who worked very hard on the By-Laws revisions.

The Traveling Wall (Vietnam memorial) will be in Lexington, SC in November. Get together with fellow members and make a day trip. It's worth seeing.

Be advised of the dangerous storm projection for the next week or two. Be prepared.

Paula Palaima:

In 2025, MAVA donated 990# of food to the Pantry. They send their thanks! Our 2025 WAA (Wreaths Across America) program was a success! Thank you to MAVA for sponsorship and support, and to members for buying wreaths at our 2 for 1 BOGO sale. We can still order wreaths for 2026! Contact Paula for help.

Gary Zoldowski:

Will have small size T-shirts available for order at the next meeting. It Takes 1 month to deliver the new uniform items that are ordered.

Len Fouch:

Elections will be held next month. Contact Len to put your name on the ballot.

Memorabilia - Mike Welch of Coffee HQ restaurant would like military memorabilia on loan to display in the restaurant. He will frame photos. Contact him (Mike Welch) for more info.

Harry Klug:

Next months meeting will be held in the building next door (called The Bridge.) This room (The Ark) is reserved for a church function. Please plan to arrive early. The space in the Bridge is smaller.

50/50 drawing ticket was 912772.

JAG Craig Pierre moved to adjourn, second by Dan Antis. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary