

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Member Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 100 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: JA Craig Pierre, 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Prayer, Moment of Silence: Chaplain
Howard Milhoan

Present: Chairman Len Fouch, JA Craig Pierre, Treasurer Jim Brady,
Secretary Sharon Branigan, Webmaster Wayne Ehrensberger, Chaplain
Howard Milhoan, Quartermaster Gary Zoldowski, Chairman Emeritus Harry
Klug, Theresa Sadowski, David Flom, John Yerdon.

Welcome new members and guests: 1 Army, 1 Air force, two guests.

Old Business:

Craig Pierre: Presentation of By-laws update, new election cycles,
declared candidates for offices:

Secretary - 3 year term - Sharon Branigan

Treasurer - 3 year term - Jim Brady

Judge Advocate - 2 year term - Craig Pierre

Chairman - 1 year term - Len Fouch

Vice Chairman - 2 years term - Brian Richardson

Webmaster - 1 year term - Wayne Ehrensberger

Executive Sub Committee Chair - 1 year - TBD

Craig called for further nominations, none were declared. Membership was
called to raise hands to accept the nominations. All in favor; none
opposed.

Len Fouch: Introduced the possibility of appointing a member to be our
Historian, to record events and outings of the association. Interested
parties see Len after the meeting.

Veterans Memorial Plaza - almost finished, perhaps 6-8 weeks. City will hold an opening ceremony. Check your sponsored bricks at the park, make sure they are done correctly.

New Business:

Jim Brady: Presented proposed budget for 2026. See attached. Motion to accept by Dan Rego, second by Craig Pierre, all voted in favor. A monthly audit was completed by Len, Brian and Jim in January.

Rick Ring: Reported on Field Trip program - Committee consists of Rick Ring, Dan Rego and Rob Needham. They'll present trip ideas for membership consideration. Some local, some one day events, some multi-day events. A survey has been circulated via email asking for input from members, please fill it out and return it asap. Some ideas: SC Military Museum in Columbia; Fort Gordon, Fort Charlotte, Kings Mountain, Mobile Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Lexington, Under the Crown in North Augusta.

Rose Connor: Representing Helping Hands and the McCormick Food Pantry, invited MAVA Members to attend a special day to thank MAVA for all the support. Access to Helping Hands shopping, HQ coffee discounts on that special day. Please invite all the veterans that we can find in McCormick County. Date TBD. Len mentioned there are 1300 veterans in this county, the highest per capita in the state.

Wayne Ehrensberger: the Revolutionary War Roll Call has been approved by the city. July 1, MAVA and DAR will honor all veterans and currently serving military. Then a roll call will recognize Revolutionary War veterans. The veterans name will be called and a bell will be rung, any descendants present will be recognized, and a 21 gun salute, and Honor Color Guard. There may be re-enactors, displays and demonstrations. Looking for anyone who may have a cannon we can use. This program is in conjunction with the Long Cane Chapter Daughters of the Revolution.

Jim Brady: McCormick County Historical Society presentation on Fort Charlotte is this Saturday Feb. 21, at 3 pm at the Cotton Gin.

Len Fouch: Veterans Day Golf Tournament - interested members meet Monday Feb. 23 at Hickory Knob for a meeting with Andrew Spencer, the HK golf pro, who will be organizing the 2026 Veterans Day Tournament.

Paula Palaima: MAVVA donated 156# of food to the Pantry in January. Guest Mary Davidson (pantry directory) thanked MAVVA and reports that for March, the pantry is requesting toothbrushes, toothpaste and Kleenex for pantry patrons.

Gary Zoldowski: We now have small size t shirts for order. We need 3 more articles in order to place our order with our vendor. Please see him to order.

Vickie Leonard: Reports that the Veterans Home visit is this Friday Feb. 20, meet at 8 am at the Rec Center to carpool.

Len Fouch: Reminder that our Board meetings are open to anyone, we meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the SLV POA at 10 am. Our next member meeting will be back in the ARK on March 17 at 6 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Craig Pierre; second by Gary Zoldowski. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary