

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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

Call to Order: JA Craig Pierre, 6:02 pm

Pledge/Prayer/MOS: Chaplain Howard Milhoan

Present: Chairman Len Fouch, Vice Chairman Bryan Richardson, JA Craig Pierre, Chaplain Howard Milhoan, Webmaster Wayne Ehrensberger, Secretary Sharon Branigan, Quartermaster Gary Zoldowski, Jerry Wishall, Judi Bouchard, David Flom, John Yerdon.

Welcome new member James Wallace, US Army.

Old Business:

Len Fouch:

Announced that the Chamber of Commerce had awarded MAVA the Award of Excellence as Non-Profit of the Year. Ceremony held 2/26/26 at John de la Howe school. Approximately 20

MAVA members were able to attend the ceremony and dinner. At this event, Len met Ken Coffey who is the Director of the Non-profit program at Self Regional. Ken would like to have Self Regional be the primary sponsor of our Veterans Day Golf Tournament this year.

Presented a short list of accomplishments, events and field trips as a reminder of the accomplishments of this group, list is posted on the website and is quite extensive.

Golf Tournament: Huge thanks and acknowledgement to Craig Pierre and Theresa Sadowski for their leadership and hard work organizing the golf tournament for the last two years.

Our new Points of Contact for the 2026 tournament is member Howard Kennedy and associate member Nicki Lewis. The next golf tournament planning meeting is on at 2 pm on 3/26/26, at Hickory Knob pro shop.

Bryan Richardson: Business type cards have been printed with MAVA logo, info and a QR code which takes you to our website. Please, take cards and share them everywhere you go!

Bryan met with leaders of Fuller re the DME library, and he, Craig, Jim Brady, and Theresa had a walk through with them. He expects to have an agreement to sign soon. Fuller has asked that we pay them \$1 per year for rent. He opes they will be able to prep the area soon for an early May opening.

Rick Ring:

The sub committee received 8 surveys back; no specific trends were identified. So the SC will plan about one trip per month, beginning with "Under the Crown" in Living History Park in North Augusta. That event is 3/21/26. Future plans: Early April: 96 National Historic Site. May 4: Greenwood Military Museum and Greenwood Museum. May 16: Thunder Over Evans. June: SC Military Museum in Columbia. Summer TBD: Army Cyber Command; Military History Center of Carolinas/Greenville. October: Charleston/Mt Pleasant: Sumter/Patriots Point/USS Yorktown. 2027: New Orleans WII Museum; Washington DC/Pentagon. 2028: Beaches of Normandy.

David Flom: Treasurer's Report. February Treasury was audited and approved.

Wayne Ehrensberger:

Revolutionary War Roll Call update: Roll Call is on July 1 at 10 am. The committee has 55 names for the Roll Call. There will be period displays, info tables, period musicians, demonstrations, and a cannon! 12 re-enactors will attend, and a soloist and a chorus will provide patriotic music. Volunteers are needed to rep each branch of the military as part of the program, and 3 roll-callers are needed. 1 person is needed for the MAVA information booth. Volunteers are still needed for the committee. See Wayne.

Len:

Veterans Memorial Park - Grand Opening is scheduled for April 2 at 11 am at Veterans Plaza. Rain will move the ceremony to the fire department (possibly.) Bricks are still available for engraving. Len will ask Mayor Smith to authorize the city to purchase a POW/MIA flag to fly below the US Flag at the plaza.

May 13, there will be a Law Enforcement memorial events with a local LE group led by Doug Grimes/SLV resident. It will be at 5 pm at Tara Grill, all are encouraged to attend.

Len, Craig and Harry met with Rosalinde Burke at the Greenwood Military Museum. July 16 from 11-2 is Veterans Appreciation Day. August 22 is a Hall of Heroes presentation. Nomination forms are available.

SLV disaster prep planning committer led by Ron Connor of the Fire Department. MAVA members are encouraged to get involved with this group.

We received a generous donation of new, unused goods for the future lending library.

Len will ask Rose Connor to choose a day for MAVA to enjoy a special buying day at Helping Hands. Also Members can offer Helping Hands a "helping hand" that day in appreciation.

Jerry Wishall:

Vets for Vets - Happy St. Patricks Day! MAVA members are encouraged to contact Jerry or Judi Bouchard if you know of any veterans who need help.

Vicki Leonard/DAR:

See Vickie tonight to purchase a DAR "PATRIOT BRACELET". They are \$5 each.

Paula Palaima/Pantry:

Thank you for toothbrush/toothpaste donations this month. Next month's requested donation item is Kleenex.

Gary Zoldowski:

Some shirts that were ordered are here and available for pickup. Please sign up to order a new shirt so we can send in a complete order.

Thompson Hardware has authorized MAVA to put up a 2x4 MAVA recruitment sign on their wall.

You can order a Veterans license plate for free. See him for details.

Buddy Reeves: Inquired about a deadline for accepting donations for the golf tournament? Len advised the deadline is before November 9. (Editor: But we need at least two weeks before that in order to include donors names in signage and flyers/newsletter.)

March 29 is the Welcome Home for Vietnam Vets event at the Greenwood Military Museum.

Kevin Klausman:

Please consider attending the Good Shepherd Catholic Church Fish Fry this Friday, 3/20/26, from 5 to 7 pm.

50/50: Ticket 912992.

John Yerdon is serving cake and coffee in the back of the room.

Craig Pierre moved to adjourn, Bryan Richardson second.
Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary