

McCORMICK AREA



VETERANS ASSOCIATION

MAVA Member Meeting Minutes April 21, 2026
at Lutheran Church by the Lake, 100 Twelve Oaks Drive

Call to Order: JA Craig Pierre, 6:04 pm

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

Present: Chairman Len Fouch, Vice Chair Bryan Richardson, Chaplain Howard Milhoan, Treasurer Jim Brady, JA Craig Pierre, Secretary Sharon Branigan, Quartermaster Gary Zoldowski, Chairman Emeritus Harry Klug, Jerry Wishall, David Flom, John Yerdon, Theresa Sadowski, Rob Needham.

Welcome: 7 new members and guests: 1 Air Force, 4 Army, 2 Navy

Chairman Len Fouch presented Pastor Van Dyke with an honorarium of gratitude to the Lutheran Church by the Lake for their continuing support in hosting and supporting MAVA.

Bryan Richardson presented an award to King Kiss Johnson, US Army veteran. She works with the VA survey program. She encouraged all members to respond to the VA surveys they receive after their VA visits, this information is used by the Veterans Administration. improve service and access.

John Yerdon shared a request for volunteers to help work on special projects that are led by Rich Jackson, a member of his church (Methodist Church in McCormick). Projects such as building wheelchair access ramps are often organized for local veterans in need. Please consider donating your time, talent, and funds if possible.

Len Fouch:

A grand opening ceremony was held on April 2, 2026, for the Veterans memorial Plaza. A large number of MAVA members attended, along with almost 400 community members in attendance. Patty Tridente of SLV POA is requesting volunteers to help with the SLV "America 250" celebration which will be held July 1. Contact SLV to volunteer.

Len requested ideas for future speakers for our meeting. See him after this meeting.

Upcoming - the SLV Open House event will be 5/16/26 from 10 to 3 at the Rec Center. Need 4 to 6 volunteers to man our table. Please see Len to volunteer.

Len Fouch:

Craig Pierre just finished the Palmetto Pathfinders training program, and now MAVA has 4 qualified PP reps: Len, Bryan, Gary and Craig. They help veterans with referrals to organizations for help, and funding. See them for more information.

Howard Kennedy:

Golf tournament planning continues. Next meeting is April 30 at noon at Hickory knob park. Date of tournament is November 9. Play is limited to 120 players, and the Red Barn will be used for the after-party. Price will be \$95 per person. Many volunteers are needed, please consider volunteering.

Craig Pierre: MAVA needs volunteers to help with the Rev 250 celebration. We have 32 members so far but need more: 2 Marines, 2 Coast Guard, 2 Air Force (to cover Space Force) and 2 flag detail. Also, we may need guards to watch our site overnight, pls see Craig. Note: anyone who may have PTSD issues with the fireworks noise that will accompany the celebration, please see Len or Bryan after this meeting.

Theresa Sadowski:

The fire department has a "Blue Bottle" program to assist EMS in the event that they are called to your home. They supply an information sheet on which you list your meds and health conditions. Then place the sheet into the blue bottle they supply. You then place the bottle

on the inside door of your refrigerator. The Fire Department will come talk about it at a MAVA meeting if requested.

Lowes Heroes Project will be in September or October, we will need 15 MAVA volunteers to help an army veteran with a yard/landscape project. Please consider helping.

Medical Lending Library: MAVA is giving Fuller House a signed contract to use their facility for our MLL. If you have anything to donate please see Theresa.

Jerry Wishall:

Vets for Vets needs volunteers to help a USN female veteran moving to SLV, during the first week of May. Includes some assembly of furniture, and hanging of pictures. Please contact Jerry to help.

Bud Webster, USMC veteran, has terminal cancer. Please make an effort to attend his funeral when the time comes. Bud did three tours in Vietnam during 1965-1968.

Also please contact Jerry if you need help or know someone who does.

Paula Palaima:

Wreaths Across America will be on December 19 this year ,so we will not hold a ceremony, since many people leave town at that time. We will lay the wreaths at the cemeteries. Please consider helping, it's a fun and moving experience. Paula also presented Certificates of Appreciation from Wreaths Across America to Vickie Leonard and Sharon Branigan in appreciation of their five years of participation in WAA. Jim Brady mentioned that WAA is a fundraiser for MAVA, as we earned \$775 last year for our efforts.

Joy Swieki:

For the April visit to the Veterans home they took Girl Scout cookies to the veterans. Next visit will be around May 4, please come visit with the veterans, it is always a pleasant and meaningful time.

Rob Needham:

Field trips: April 30 McCormick veterans Town Hall. 5/16 we will carpool to Evans for Thunder over Evans. Fort Gordon has indicated they can offer a tour of the Army Cyber Security Center- a show of

hands showed great interest. Past field trips were Under the Crown and 96 Battlefield. Future field trips will be the military museum in Greenwood and possibly a South Carolina train trip event.

Vickie Leonard:

DAR will bring bracelets to sell at the May MAVA meeting and they may have America 250 bracelets as well.

Gary Zoldowski:

We have uniform shirts available for a discount, and we can also order new shirts. A show of hands indicated that a number of members would be interested in hats embroidered with the MAVA logo. Len added that a future meeting may include a "Branch" t-shirt night, wear your "branch" shirts. Details TBD.

David Flom:

Reminder that the Rev War 250 event on July 1 will be hot, plan for it. We will try to keep folks out of the sun. But be prepared.

Jim Brady:

Melissa Mack at the VA Service Office has veterans who need jobs and a veteran who needs help with car insurance. Len added that the Palmetto Pathfinders helps with this type of need.

50/50 drawing ticket 5203401

Craig Pierre moved to adjourn, Kevin Klausman second. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Coffee and Cake at the back of the room courtesy of John Yerdon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Branigan/Secretary