

## MILITARY AND VETERANS SERVICES ALLIANCE

AUGUST 26, 2013  
MINUTES

The Meeting was called to order by *Laura Conway, NAMI*.

Invocation presented by *Mr. Joe Pilon, VFW Post 8760*

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome and Introductions of the Committee Members:

*Maggie Clark, Hospice Care of the Lowcountry, We Honor Veterans Program*

*Donnie Beer, Helping Heroes of the Lowcountry Fund*

*Laura Conway, NAMI*

*Dwight Hora, Lowcountry Economic Alliance*

*Joe Mazera, Honor Our Heroes Foundation*

*Joe Pilon, VFW Post 8760*

*Bob Sterling, AL Post 205*

*Gary Swickard, AL Post 185*

*Jake Walsh, Honor Our Heroes Foundation*

*Sarah Eliasoph, NAMI*

MAVSA Members in attendance then introduced themselves and gave a brief synopsis of their organization and their veteran/active military assistance focus.

**Special Guests Introduced from Charleston, SC who are interested in starting an alliance in their city and are present to observe.**

*Pamela Gregory, Military and Veterans Outreach Program with Senator Tim Scott's office, Charleston, SC.*

*Kim Bradley, Navy Marine Corp Relief Society, Charleston, SC:* Organization helps with transition to the home and community.

*Mary Cotter, RN, American Red Cross Volunteer, Charleston, SC*

*Eileen Hadbavny, American Red Cross Volunteer Lead Service to the Armed Forces/International Services* from Charleston, SC. Facilitates Support Groups for Coping with Deployment and a Reconnection Group to re-integrate into the Family after being away so long. The American Red Cross is also in charge of Emergency Communications for active duty military. Apps for smart phones are now available for alerts. Please visit [www.LowcountryRedCross.org](http://www.LowcountryRedCross.org).

Laura Conway, NAMI welcomed all in attendance. Please spread the word and invite other organizations that work with veterans as well.

The Mission Statement, Goals, Vision and Values statements for MAVSA are completed and on the backside of the agenda.

It is requested that all communication related to the MAVSA be sent to current Chairperson, Laura Conway NAMI, at [Laura.conway@namibeaufortcounty.com](mailto:Laura.conway@namibeaufortcounty.com) and she will distribute to the appropriate MAVSA service partners to ensure the concern, question, or comment goes to the correct organization for resolution. This will decrease spam and blanket e-mails. If it is an emergency, please contact Laura via phone at 406-581-8312 for immediate resolution.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Bob Sterling, reported on the Website he is creating for MAVSA. The website address will be [www.mavsasc.org](http://www.mavsasc.org) and should be available within a week to 10 days. The outline will include our mission, goals, vision and value statements. There will be a home page, members page and information page. Each organization is encouraged to submit a small paragraph outlining their service to veterans to place on the website. Please provide the link to your own organization. The intention of this website is to benefit Veterans, service members, their families, and the community. Organizations included on the website include members of MAVSA, as well as other local, regional and national resources for veterans & service members. Mr. Sterling's e-mail is [Vims@hargray.com](mailto:Vims@hargray.com). Please send him a list of officers and the information to be included for your organization.

Laura Conway suggested members could participate in a brief 10 minute presentation of their organization at our MAVSA meeting as part of the agenda. This will educate us on each organization. She requested volunteers to e-mail her to schedule their presentation.

## **Events on the Horizon to benefit Veterans:**

**ALPOST 205** A Golf Tournament will be held October, 19, 2013. The event will raise money to grant scholarships for Bluffton High School JROTC to help defray college expenses. The tournament will be held at Rose Hill Golf Club from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Please visit [www.ALpost205.com](http://www.ALpost205.com) for more information or to register.

**HOSPICE CARE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY** will be holding a fund raising event on October 24, 2013 at the Seahawk Cultural Center at Hilton Head High School (formerly VPAC). The movie HONOR FLIGHT ONE LAST MISSION will be shown. Please visit [www.hospicecarelc.org](http://www.hospicecarelc.org) for more information. Proceeds benefit the We Honor Veterans Program and HONOR FLIGHT SAVANNAH. Please visit [hospicecarelc.org](http://hospicecarelc.org) for more information.

**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY** will be held September 7<sup>th</sup> from 11-3 at Laurel Bay. They are specifically looking for volunteers to provide children's activities such as face painting. Information is located on the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce Website.

**NAMI WALK** will be held on October 26, 10:00am at Coligny Beach, Hilton Head Island, SC. The walk promotes awareness about mental illness, including PTSD & Depression in veterans. The Bluffton JROTC color guard and cadets will be volunteering at the event, and veterans, service members, and their families are invited to help "Step Off" the Walk as the "Honorary Chairpersons" of the event. There will be a great barbecue, music and workouts with CrossFit Hilton Head for the participants after the walk. This is a National NAMI event. For more information, please visit [www.namiwalks.org/beaufortcounty](http://www.namiwalks.org/beaufortcounty) or call NAMI at 843-681-2200.

**HIRING OUR HEROES EVENT** Sept 4, 2013 at the National Guard Armory a "Hiring our Heroes" event will take place. At 9:00am veterans can receive assistance with resumes and interview strategies. From 10:00am to 1:00pm Interviews will be held.

**RECOVERY RUN** Sponsored by MCCA Behavioral Health Unit will be held Sept 25 at 0700 on MCRD PI. The run is in support of those recovering from mental health and addiction issues.

**September 11, 2013** Ceremony commemorating anniversary of September 11th to be held from 8:30am to 10:00am in Beaufort Waterfront Park.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 18, 2013 Wednesday 11:30-12:30. Feel free to bring brochures, cards for display during and after the meeting.