

**Low Country  
Scuttlebut**

**November, 2024**

**Branch/Unit 269  
Goose Creek  
South Carolina**



**National website: fra.org**

<http://facebook.com/groups/frabrandandunit269>

**Southeast region: frasseastregion.org**

**Branch 269 website: fra269gc.org**

**Branch President's Corner**

Shipmates

We hosted a well attended highly successful Southeast regional convention. Outstanding job to the Branch 269 convention committee, Thank you to all involved Shipmates and ladies.

Results of the convention committees

Committee	Chair	Results
Americanism/Patriotism	PNC Laurie Bailey	1st
Vet/Legislative service	PRPSE Fred Bolz	1st
Public Relations	S/M John Tharp	1st
Youth Activities	S/M Don Barton	1st
Hosp,welfare&rehab	S/M Bobbie Sutton	2nd

Newly elected secretary/treasurer southeast region S/M John Tharp

Congratulations & Well Done to all

PNP Don Muccheck,PNC Laurie Bailey,PRPSE Fred Bolz and S/M Tim Bailey will represent Branch 269 at the National convention.

Future planning the branch will have a indoor picnic Veterans Day 11 Nov. The Branch Christmas party will be Thursday, 19 Dec.

Yours in Protection,Loyalty and Service

Ken Hutchison

**BRANCH OFFICERS**

President – Kenneth Hutchison Vice-President - Donald Barton  
Treasurer - PNP Don Muccheck Secretary - Cindy Bryan  
Jr. Past President – Harry Nettles

**BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PNC Laurie Bailey	Tim Bailey	Skip Chilton
Steven Koch	Ronald Lamon	Tom Lawson
Glenn Little	William Maloon	Rob Melton
Bobbi Sutton	Larry Pepper	Ken Wallace

Appointees and Committee Chairs

Chaplain – Bobbi Sutton

Legislative Affairs – PRPSE Fred Bolz

Parliamentarian – PNP Don Muccheck

By-Laws PRPSE Fred Bolz Youth Activites-Donald Barton

Master-at-Arms-Glenn Little Ways and Means-Larry Pepper

Newsletter- John (Nick) Nichols

Public Relations – Robert Melton

Webmaster: Nick Nichols

Essay Contest PNC Laurie Bailey

Membership – Ken Wallace

**LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC**

99 Wisteria Road- (843) 569-2692

Home Chairman – Ken Wallace

Admin Secretary-Bobbi Sutton Financial Sec-Steven Koch

Director – Sue Peters

Director-PNC Laurie Bailey

Director -Dee Wallace

Director – Gail Bolz

Director -John Tharp

Director -Rob Melton

Director – Skip Chilton

Director – Tim Bailey

**LAFRA UNIT 269**

**UNIT OFFICERS**

President – Trish Chilton Vice President – Marilyn Tharp

Secretary Yvonne Wallace Treasurer- PRPSE Gale Nathan

Jr Past President – PRPSE Gail Bolz

**Board of Directors**

PRPSE Gail Bolz Kathy Sorenson

PNP/NFS Pat Suckow Theresa Milligan

Linda Cox Ann Griffith

Sue Peters Anne Barton

Linda Nichols

**LAFRA UNIT 269**

Appointees & Committee Chairs

Chaplain – Theresa Milligan

Amer/Pat – Ann Griffith

Sergeant-at-Arms

VAVS – Theresa Milligan

Kathy Sorenson

Welfare/Rehab – Sue Peters/ Linda Nichols

Parliamentarian-PRPSE Gail Bolz

Publicity- Debra Breeze

Ship's Store --Trish Chilton

Hospital – Theresa Milligan

Membership Marilyn Tharp

Unit Activities -- All Members

Youth Activities—Anne Barton

### Madam President Tidbits

Our October meeting was postponed from our regularly scheduled day to the following Tuesday because of overscheduling.

We continue to work on retention, membership and attendance at our meetings and functions.

We had a very successful cake auction on 4 October, thank you to everybody!

The Vietnam Wall (The wall that Heals) was at Dorchester Heritage Center (964 Highway 78) Ridgeville on October 17 – 20<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone got to go. I did go and see and touch it. It was special.

Veterans day is November 11<sup>th</sup>. Will have an indoor picnic.

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> is the golf tournament.

November 24<sup>th</sup> will be the Toys for Tots Motorcycle ride.

Trish Chilton

Unit President

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

### **WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME**

Names drawn lately: 10/1- James Toner, not signed; 10/8 – Maryln Muccheck, signed, not present; 10/15 – James McKinney, not signed; 8/27-Wendy Holman, not signed.. You must be a member of the Branch or Unit in good standing and you must be signed in the log. You can sign up until 1800 hours, on the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2030 hours.

### **BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

New or Reinstated Members – 3  
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269 – 0  
Transferred from Branch 269 – 0  
Ready to renew – 19  
Past Due - 15  
Suspended members - 11  
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander - 1  
Total members: 777

### **Membership/Retention: Ken Wallace**

Total Members: 777

**New Join:** Jonathan France, George Gilford, Jamael Goss, Steven Harrison, James Livingston, Robert MacPherson, Anthony Mazza, Brigham Snowden, Warren Sparks, Robert Temple, Matthew Young, Saralyn Young

**Ready to Renew:** Mashelle Ames, Emmette Boone Jr., Angela Chapman Boyd Davis, Michael Genalo, James Heath, James Hutton, Dominador Jimenez, Christopher Kelley, Gary Landry, Kenneth Lux, David Mayeres III, Raymond Montminy, Ray Phillips Jr., David Smith, Edward Stank, Jason Tatage, David Thomas, Gordon Williams.

**Past Due:** Bob Browning, Jordan Carver, Joshua Chandler, Scott Cook, Albert Godwin, William Haney, Daniel Jamison Jr., Glenn Kaelgh, Y. L. Tittle, Michael Neff, Harry Nettles, Casey Preece, Henry Pridgen II, Richmond Smith

**Suspended:** Paul Close, Arthur Di Filippo, Thomas Lindberg, Fred Sprague, Joseph Weber

### **Unit Membership and Retention:**

Past Due 30 Days: Brian Adams, Ryan Adams, Tyler Adams, Allyson McDermott

60 days late: Danielle Carroll, Jordan Highberger

90 days late: Scott Sarah

**Prayers for the family of: OSOM Ernest Smith, USN Ret,  
ETCS Joseph Siehl USN Retired. PO1 Ron Kring, and Mike  
Curtis (son of Ken Curtis)**

Shipmates or Unit members please contact

**Branch Chaplain Bobbi Sutton @ 843-879-9473**

**Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @ 843-535-2757**

**BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT**

Operations	\$ 7,460.98
Savings	\$ 5,160.33
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 11,551.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,788.21</b>

**Branch Continuous Membership – November, 2024**

Richard Best (56) Thomas Evans (52) Robert Jaeger (52) Joseph Wiehl (50) Emmette Boone (49) Dominador Jimenez (47) Robert Beilstein (44) Raymond Montminy (44) Hubert Pearce (44) Glenn Little (39) Thomas Blalock (32) Clemmis Floyd (32) Ernest Holt (32) Merle Knapp (32) Jay Rowland (32) Thomas Chilton (29)	Alfred Bauer (26) Boyd Davis (26) Thomas Krieger (24) Pedro Garcia (24) Christopher Kelley (24) David Smith (24) Lawrence Denapoli (21) Carey Baxley (21) James Heath (21) Bruce Bailey (19) Bill Ansel (19) Timothy Bailey (19) Francis Bohannan (19) Richard Day (19) James Hutton (19)	Carmelo Olmo (19) Angela Chapman (18) Timothy McNally (18) Randy Reed (18) Kelly Rusboldt (18) John Sloane (18) Edward Stank (18) Richard Dougherty (13) Joseph Perillo (13) Larry Walton (13) Melissa Curtis (12) Russell Hale (9) Charles Wood (9) David Mayeres (8) ERNEST SMITH (7)	MASHELLE AMES (6) MICHAEL GOAD (6) DANIEL LEHMAN (6) DAVID THOMAS (6) ARTHUR PITTMAN (4) MICHAEL LECOMPTE (3) KENNETH LUX (3) RAY PHILLIPS (2) MICHAEL COUSINO (1) MICHAEL GENALO (1) SARAH HARRY (1) GARY LANDRY (1) WILLIE McDONALD (1) JASON TATGE (1) GORDON WILLIAMS (1)
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**Unit 269 Continuous Membership  
November, 2024**

PNC Gale Nathan (44) Yvonne Wallace (21) Carolyn Rose (20) Cynthia Young (20)	Rhonda McNally (12) Chun Stanfield (11) James Siroky (9) David Emerson (8)	DANIEL MARCH (4) ROSIE SODERLUND (3) WILLIAM ADAMS (2)	TYLER ADAMS (2) RYAN ADAMS (2) BRIAN ADAMS (2)
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**KENNETH WALLACE RECEIVED HIS 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP PIN AND CERTIFICATE FROM  
KENNETH HUTCHISON.**

## YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN November, 2024

If you are a Branch 269 or Unit 269 member, come on in to the Low Country Home **on your birthday** for a  
**FREE BIRTHDAY LUNCH**

Thomas Blalock (1)	Larry Starland (6)	Cheryl Cecil (15)	Georgia Cathcart (21)
Ronald Henderson (1)	Shirley Trosper (6)	Jones Kersey (15)	Roger Rader (21)
Donald Wolfe (1)	William Baranek (7)	Beatrice Murphy (15)	Richard Best (22)
Carol Brinson (2)	Rodney McKanna (7)	Larry Larkins (15)	Owen Bower (232)
Paul Burnstein (2)	Camelo Olmo (7)	Gary Crozier (16)	Benjamin Money (23)
James Finney (2)	Robert Beilstein (8)	Ronald Houde (17)	Joseph Ondo Jr. (23)
Christian LaForce (2)	Terry Gomez (8)	Patricia Martin (17)	Thomas Lawson (24)
Paul Langan (2)	Clarence Peifer (8)	Emmette Boone Jr. (18)	Ronald Litzenberger (24)
Richard Miley (2)	Linda Harris (9)	Linda Cox (18)	Elizabeth Norris (24)
Charles Wood (3)	Robert Hughes (9)	Amy Osborne (18)	Jeannette Gombash (24)
Harold Herrington (4)	Ken Anderson (10)	Fredrick Wolstencroft (18)	Jeffrey Elliott (26)
Suzanne Peters (4)	Kenneth Gray (10)	John Aguilera (19)	Charles Moss (26)
Richard Lawwell (5)	Brian Cecil (11)	Dillion Brown (19)	Leonard Monnig (26)
Howard Miles (5)	Carol Craig (11)	David Johnson (19)	Kenneth Seal (26)
John Newby (5)	John Shaak (11)	Linwood Murrow (19)	Lawrence Willoughby (26)
Kevin Patton (5)	Sarah Soddatte (11)	Lawrence Case (20)	John Stroman (27)
Thomas Seay (5)	Carol Bailey (14)	David Clemmons (20)	Julian Czeiszperger (29)
Gary Arquisola (6)	Nancy Bullis (14)	Therese Masterson (20)	Donald Whiteley (29)
Charles Baylor (6)	Gareld Landis (14)	Stephen Woodside (20)	James Houchin (30)
Pedro Garcia (6)	Matthew Young (14)	Lee Barkley (21)	Ronnie Kerstetter (30)
Herbert Hiatt (6)	Dwayne Ashline (15)		Bruce Seltzer (30)
Lyle Smith (6)			Ryan Adams (30)



Left: Sarah Ihms was installed as a member of Branch 269

Right: Sarah Ihms has been installed as the Secretary of Branch 269.

## Home Committee Report

Ken Wallace, Home Committee Chairman.

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch and R. Sutton on 11 October 2024 as follows: Checkbook balance \$13,875.81, Credit Card account \$11,280.87, Savings account \$26,445.76; there is \$0.00 in pending check/cash for deposit. Total funds \$63,102.44.

Financial Audit as of 30 September 2024 was not available.

### **Building and Grounds/Special Events/and Manager's Report:**

S/M Pepper said he is still in search of alternative company for next year's liability insurance.

Ladies Auxiliary Unit hosted a "Cake Walk" fund raiser on October 4<sup>th</sup>; good time had by all.

We celebrated US Navy 249<sup>th</sup> Birthday on October 11<sup>th</sup> with a cake cutting ceremony..

**Looking ahead:** There will be an indoor picnic to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>; it coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the FRA. There will a birthday cake to celebrate. Watch for further details and Time.

The next Golf tournament (last of the year) will be on November 16<sup>th</sup> followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

The adult Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, and the children's party will be on the Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>. Details on both parties to be worked out.

### **New Business:**

Pill Party, Saturday, 10 AM, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, at the Home. Come join us as we replace the names for the Weekly Drawing Pills.

**Membership and Security:** Headquarters reported that we have 777 active Branch members as of 01 October. There are 188 active Unit members.

**Good of the Order:** our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, November 18 at 1300,

One final reminder, if you bring a Non-Member to Home, please remember to sign them into the Guest Log.





LAFRA Unit 269 entered into a partnership with Ladson Elementary School (LES), Ladson, S.C., for the [2024-2025](#) school year to support and assist in any needs. The initial effort was a drive for backpacks for the students. The first delivery was 102 backpacks donated by Branch and Unit members. Pictured (R to L): Vanessa Smith [LES Family Service Advocate), Sue Peters and Linda Nichols (Unit 269 Members), Jennifer Simpkins (LES Assistant Principal). Branch S/M Nick Nichols assisted in the delivery.

**Veterans Day, November 11 the Home will have an indoor picnic. Also to celebrate the FRA 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**



**The Branch/Unit 269 Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 19, 2024**

**There will be no Branch meeting in December!!!**

Mark your calendar, watch for  
 details, watch for additions

Friday nights – 1930 hrs – Scotch Doubles, 8-ball Tournament

<b>November, 2024</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>Free Pool Daylight Saving Time Ends</b>	4	5 <b>Everyone Must vote today</b>	6	7  SubVet EBoard	8	9  DAV Meeting 1000
10 Free Pool	11 <b>Happy 100 year FRA Birthday</b>  <b>Veterans Day Indoor picnic</b>	12	13  LCCC 1900	14 SubVet Mtg  	15	16  <b>Golf Tournament</b>
17 Free Pool	18  Home Committee 1300	19  Unit Lunch 11:00	20	21 Branch Mtg  	22  MOAA 1100	23
24  FREE POOL	25 VVA Mtg  	26  Sojourners 1900	27	28  	29	30

## December, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Free Pool	2	3	4	5	6 SubVet Christmas Party	7 Marine Corps League Christmas Party
8 Free Pool	9	10	11	12	13	14 DAV Meeting 1000
15 Free Pool	16 Home Committee 1300	17	18 LCCC 1900	19 Branch Xmas 	20	21 Children's Christmas Party
22 Free Pool	23	24	25 	26	27 MOAA 1100	28
29 FREE POOL	30 VVA Mtg	31 <b>Happy New Year</b>				





## **Newsbytes October 25, 2024**

### **TRICARE Enrollment Freeze**

The Defense Health Agency has announced that from October 25–27, 2024, there will be a global enrollment freeze for any TRICARE health plan changes. This means beneficiaries will not be able to update their information or make changes to their plans, including overseas and dental enrollments.

“This is a scheduled outage,” explained Jim Frank, Health Plan Operations Support Branch DEERS Integration Manager, TRICARE Health Plan, at the Defense Health Agency. “The DHA and its partners will use this time to transfer beneficiary enrollment information to the regional contractors.”

Following that, between October 28 and December 31, if you live in the U.S. and need to make health plan changes, you will need to call your regional contractor. You will not be able to make any health plan updates online in milConnect via the Beneficiary Web Enrollment (BWE) portal. This limitation will allow the DHA and regional contractors to transfer beneficiary enrollment information in DEERS ahead of the start of health care delivery under TRICARE’s new regional contracts, which begin on January 1, 2025.

## Navy IDs two aviators who died in EA-18G Growler crash last week



The Navy has identified the two aviators who died after their EA-18G Growler jet crashed Tuesday in Washington state. They are Lt. Serena N. Wileman, left, and Lt. Cmdr. Lyndsay P. Evans. (U.S. Navy)

The Navy identified on Monday the two aviators who died in an EA-18G Growler crash last week east of Mount Rainier in Washington.

Naval aviator Lt. Serena Wileman, 31, and naval flight officer Lt. Cmdr. Lyndsay Evans, 31, both from Electronic Attack Squadron 130 based out of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington, were conducting a routine training flight on Tuesday at the time of the crash, according to the Navy.

“It is with a heavy heart that we share the loss of two beloved Zappers,” Cmdr. Timothy Warburton, commanding officer of Electronic Attack Squadron 130, [said in a statement Sunday](#). “Our priority right now is taking care of the families of our fallen aviators, and ensuring the well-being of our Sailors and the Growler community. We are grateful for the ongoing teamwork to safely recover the deceased.”

Wreckage of the crash was identified Wednesday and the Navy said Thursday night that it “rests at approximately 6,000 feet altitude in a remote, steep and heavily-wooded area east of Mount Rainier.”

Additionally, soldiers from the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) based at nearby Joint Base Lewis-McChord stepped in to assist with search and recovery operations.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

Electronic Attack Squadron 130, known as the “Zappers,” concluded a deployment to the Middle East with Carrier Air Wing 3 embarked on the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower in July.

During this deployment, Evans and Wileman “distinguished themselves in combat operations” that “cemented” their legacies in the service’s history, according to the Navy.

## Marines score aviation firsts with F-35 squadron, drone test and more



A Marine Corps XQ-58A Valkyrie, left, conducts a test flight with two Air Force F-35A Lightning II.

The Marine Corps recently notched a series of [aviation firsts](#) with an advanced drone under development and its newest jet, as the service works toward achieving more nimble and responsive [air combat power](#).

The Corps' XQ-58A Valkyrie drone completed a test flight last week at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, marking the platform's first integration with other military branches, according to a Marine Corps release.

"The flight focused on the use of tactical data links to enable digital communication between the XQ-58A and an airborne four-ship of F-35Bs from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 214 and other joint aircraft," said Col. Derek Brannon, branch head for the Cunningham Group, deputy commandant for aviation. Those tests are how the Corps aims to team crewed aircraft with uncrewed aircraft.

The Valkyrie is the service's test platform for new technology and concepts as the Corps pursues a central node for commanding and controlling battlefield assets.

The drone acts as a sensing platform that collects and sends back targeting data to fifth-generation aircraft such as the F-35B and F-35C, the Corps' most exquisite — and newest — aviation asset.

The Corps [first deployed](#) the F-35B Lightning II to combat in 2018. The service has since worked to procure variants of the F-35, build out squadrons and replace the legacy F/A-18 Hornet and AV-8B Harrier.

Also, earlier this month, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 533 became the [second East Coast](#) operational F-35B Lightning II squadron and the first such squadron aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina.

Until now, the only other similar F-35 squadron on the East Coast has been the service's training squadron.

Lt. Col. Zachary Hartnett, commander of [Squadron 533](#), said the aircraft's arrival at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort signals a "new era" in how the service employs the advanced aircraft.

The F-35 combines the capabilities of the Hornet and Harrier while adding a suite of reconfigurable sensor platforms, which touch all of the ground, maritime and other aviation assets the service uses as part of its combined arms approach to warfighting.

On the other side of the country, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 211, also an F-35B Lightning II unit, out of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, integrated the aircraft on amphibious assault ships.

Beginning in April, the unit trained with the flight deck crew of the America-class amphibious assault ship Tripoli and Marine crews from tiltrotor and rotary wing squadrons within the [3rd Marine Aircraft Wing](#).

That work culminated in the service marking aviation certification for day and night operations aboard the assault ship, which is a crucial step for specialized aircraft such as the F-35 to operate in the manner and mode the Marines expect in a disparate Pacific fight.

Practicing this teaming helps the various pieces of the larger aviation-maritime team learn how to operate ahead of a real-world conflict, [officials said](#).

“The flight deck is very dynamic and can be a dangerous place, so it is imperative that we ensure the personnel on the deck are trained and qualified to safely operate around the aircraft,” said [Maj. Courtenay Franklin](#), an F-35B pilot and aviation safety officer with Squadron 211.

In another significant milestone for Marine aviation, two Marines recently turned to 3D printing to improve aviation maintenance.

In July, the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13, also in Yuma, encountered a [critical shortage in reamers](#), a precision cutting tool critical for aviation maintenance, according to a release.

A combination of the reamers’ long procurement times and the limited lifespan threatened to stall maintenance, training and operations of Yuma-based aircraft, officials said.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Bevan, an airframes technician, and Sgt. Landon Boroday, an aviation machinist, brainstormed a solution using 3D printing to develop a high-performance reamer that extended the tool’s lifespan by 300%.

The pair developed a process by using chopped carbon fiber strands and high-temperature resin instead of the usual high-performance thermoplastic known as Torlon, which is normally used in reamer production.

“Torlon is a high strength, highly abrasive material that doesn’t damage the aircraft structure but is still abrasive enough to remove corrosion from the aircraft,” Bevan said.

Boroday spearheaded the procurement of two Markforged X7 industrial 3D printers, which allowed the two Marines to create the reamer solution.

“I got the information on which type of reamers the supply section was ordering, I did the math, and figured out it can cost less if we print them internally,” Boroday said.

The move cut maintenance costs involving reamers by half to about \$15 and reduced procurement time from a three-month wait to delivering the tool on the same day, according to the service.

Overall, the reamer solution saved the logistics unit \$10,000 in tool procurement and reduced aircraft downtime by nearly 20% over a three-month period, officials said.

Maj. Gen. James Wellons, 3rd MAW commander, awarded the two Marines the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for their accomplishment.

“Their ability to develop solutions at the tactical level not only saves resources but keeps our aircraft mission-ready,” Wellons said.

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**FRA BRANCH 269 BOD MEETING  
OCTOBER 17, 2024**

Shipmate President Ken Hutchison called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order at 1800, Thursday, October 17, 2024, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

**Board Members present were:**

PNC Laurie Bailey	Tim Bailey	Skip Chilton	Ken Hutchinson
William Maloon	Glenn Little	Kenneth Wallace	Donald Barton
Ronald Lamon	Tom Lawson	Steven Koch	PNP Don MucHECK
Robert Melton	Bobbi Sutton	Larry Pepper	Sarah Ihme
			Harry Nettles

**Minutes:** Posted on the entrance table. Motion to accept.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Secretary Cindy Bryan has resigned and S/M Ken Hutchinson nominates S/M Sarah Ihme to replace. A motion was made by PNP Don MucHECK and seconded by PNC Laurie Bailey.

S/M John Tharpe is now the Secretary and Treasurer for the Southeast Region. He was the branch's newsletter editor and public relations. S/M Ken Hutchinson appointed S/M Nick Nichols as newsletter editor and S/M Rob Melton as public relations.

There will be an indoor picnic at the home on Veterans Day.

Discussion to form a coalition of veteran associations in the Goose Creek area. This coalition will include the FRA and American Legion under which several organizations meet. S/M Ken Hutchinson has talked briefly to the Goose Creek mayor and will attend meetings at the FRA and American Legion and ask if they are interested in joining this coalition. He is also going to talk to the Knights of Columbus about joining the coalition. Each organization will rotate as sponsor for Memorial Day and Veterans Day and provide a speaker for each event. A motion was made by PNC Laurie Bailey and seconded by S/M Tim Bailey.

MajGen Livingston spoke at the Southeast Region Convention. There was a discussion about gifting him a FRA membership. MajGen Livingston will be attending the November meeting to accept membership. PNP Don MucHECK spoke to John Handsuk, the FRA National President, about presenting the gift.

We did quite well at our Southeast Region Convention. S/M Laurie Bailey will give a rundown on the convention at the general assembly meeting. We finished 1<sup>st</sup> place in American Patriotism, Public Relations, Veterans Affairs, and Youth Activities. We finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Hospital Welfare.



S/M Ken Wallace will receive his 50-year continuous membership pin at the GA meeting.

PNP Don Muccheck has a receipt for postage from S/M Cindy Bryan for \$19.50. A motion was made by PNP D. Muccheck and seconded by PNC Laurie Bailey to reimburse Cindy for postage.

PNP Don Muccheck received a check from Ameriprise Financial Corporation for \$2K from an anonymous donor for the LAFRA. The check was made out to Branch 269. He will deposit this check and write a check to the LAFRA for \$2K.

Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation: There will be a 2-bell ceremony for four shipmates.

Bylaws: The special committee met and made recommendations to FRA national resolutions and to amend FRA bylaws and standing rules. These will be submitted to the membership for approval.

Youth Activities: S/M Don Barton is requesting money for a youth program called Safety Pugs which is a drug and safety program and costs \$3 per child. He would like to sponsor 100 children for \$300 which goes to the Goose Creek Police Department. A motion was made by S/M Don Barton and seconded by PNP Don Muccheck.

The annual Veterans Day parade will take place on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Golf: The next golf tournament will be November 16<sup>th</sup>.

PNC Laurie Bailey motioned to allocate \$200 for winter coats for the VA clinic. PNP Don Muccheck seconds the motion.

Good of the Order:

Subvets are mustering at the wall that heals at 0630/0645 on hwy 78 to tear it down.

On October 31, Subvets will be pulling the float to the fair. They are looking for people to hang out with them. We will have FRA applications there.

S/M Tim Bailey has been cleaning out the back storeroom and wants to get the other storeroom cleaned out.

S/M Steve Koch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by \_\_\_\_\_ and the meeting was adjourned at 1827.

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269  
MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Shipmate President Ken Hutchison called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 1900, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

**Continuous membership:**

Earnest Hall	50 years	Robert Jett	15 years
Rocco Losito	50 years	James Nelson	15 years
Kenneth Wallace	50 years	Daniel Wall	15 years
Oscar Diano	25 years	Darryl Watson	15 years
Mitchell McCain, Jr.	20 years	Julian Czeiszperger	5 years
Roger Gibson	15 years	Frank Hixenbaugh	5 years
Kim Hamilton	15 years		

**Shipmates initiated:** Sarah Ihme

**Minutes:** Posted on the entrance table.

**Communications:** No communication to be read.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Operations Account: \$7,046.98	Savings Account: \$5,180.23
Certificate of Deposit: \$11,561.71	Total: \$23,788.21

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Committee Reports**

**Americanism/Patriotism** – PNC Laurie Bailey

- October – Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- October 2 – Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
- October 11 – Yom Kippur
- October 11 – 7 Day War 1967
- October 13 – United States Navy Birthday
- October 14 – Columbus Day
- October 14 – Indigenous People's Day
- October 26 – Day of the Deployed
- October 27 – Navy Day
- October 31 – Halloween

We had a wonderful convention. All of the fundraisers we did not only brought us closer as a branch and unit, but it also helped cover the cost of the hotel. We should have a small profit.

The seed money from the regional secretary was sent back yesterday. We should still have approximately \$1250 for each the branch and unit. We were able to pay all of our bills and reimburse everyone who pitched in and made it such a perfect night.

**By-Laws:** PRPSE Fred Bolz

The bylaws will be presented later in this meeting.

**Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation:** S/M Bobbi Sutton.

There will be a two-bell ceremony for OSOM Ernest Smith, USN, Ret., ETCS Joseph Wiehl, USN, Ret., Ken Curtis, and PO1 Ron King.  
Darlene is still sick.

**Membership and Retention:** Ken Wallace

**Total active members:** 777

**New Join/Reinstated:** Jonathan France, George Gilford, Jamaal Goss, Steven Harrison, James Livingston, Robert MacPherson, Anthony Mazza, Brigham Snowden, Warren Sparks, Robert Temple, Matthew Young, Saralyn Young

**Past Due:** Bob Browning, Jordan Carver, Joshua Chandler, Scott Cook, Albert Godwin, William Haney, Daniel Jamison Jr., Glenn Kaelgh, Y Little, Michael Neff, Harry Nettles, Casey Preece, Henry Pridgen II, Richmond Smith

**Ready to Renew:** : Mashelle Ames, Emmette Boone Jr., Robert Burnett, Angela Chapman, Boyd Davis, Alan Dempster, James Fleming, Michael Genalo, Christopher Gilbreath, Joseph Glavan, James Graham Sr., James Heath, Terre Heath, William Hunter, James Hutton, Dominador Jimenez, George Johnson, David Karrick, Christopher Kelley, Gary Landry, Ronald Litzengerger, Kenneth Lux, Brian Masterson, David Mayeres Jr., Raymond Montminy, Ray Phillips Jr., Robert Pulos, Garry Radwick, Franklin Shoenberger, David Smith, Edward Stank, William Sullivan, Jason Tatge, David Thomas, Robert Warder, Gordon Williams

**Suspended:** Paul Close, Arthur Di Filippo, Thomas Lindberg, Fred Sprague, Joseph Weber

**Active Unit Members:** 188

**Youth Activities:** Don Barton

Nothing to report

**Public Relations:** John Tharp

General Livingston was our guest speaker at the convention. A picture was sent to FRA Today.

**Ways and Means:** Larry Pepper

50/50 and steak tickets – get your tickets

**Golf:** Larry Pepper

The next golf tournament will be November 16 at 0900.

**Home Committee Report:** Ken Wallace

The cash audit was performed by S/M Steve Koch and S/M Bobbi Sutton on 11 October. The results are:

Checkbook balance: \$13,875.81	Credit card account: \$11,280.87
Savings: \$26,445.76	Total: \$63,102.44

There is nothing in cash pending.

The financial audit performed by the bank has not been received.

The LAFRA hosted a cake auction fundraiser on October 4 and a good time was had by all.

There was a celebration for Navy Day on October 11 with a cake-cutting ceremony.

This Saturday, October 19 at 10am there will be a pill party to update Tuesday drawing pills.

There will be an indoor picnic on Veterans Day, November 11.

The next golf tournament will be November 16 followed by lunch and awards at the home.

The adult Christmas party will be Thursday, December 19 and the children's party will be Saturday, December 21.

**Unit Report:** Trish Chilton

Nothing to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There are 16 national resolutions that we have to agree on. All resolutions were read and agreed upon and the report was received without discussion.

## **Good of the Order:**

S/M Kenneth Wallace was present to receive his 50-year pin for continuous service.

Our Secretary Cindy is resigning. S/M Sarah Ihme is taking her position.

S/M John Tharp has been nominated and elected as the Southeast Region Secretary. He will be turning over the newsletter position to S/M Nick Nichols and the public relations position to S/M Rob Melton.

There will be an indoor picnic on Veteran's Day.

The guest speaker at the convention was MajGen Medal of Honor recipient Livingston. We will be making him a life member of Branch 269 and will be present at the November meeting to accept his membership.

At the convention, we finished 1st place in American Patriotism (Laurie Bailey) , Public Relations (John Tharp), Veterans Affairs (Fred Bolz), and Youth Services (Don Barton). We finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Hospital Welfare and Rehab (Bobbi Sutton).

We are trying to put together a coalition of military organizations to take turns having guest speakers on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

The two-bell ceremony took place.

The meeting was adjourned at 1956, October 17, 2024.