





Scuttlebutt

Branch/Unit 269 Goose Creek, South Carolina

You can read all newsletters at 269 Branch/Unit 269 Newsletters

Fleet Reserve National: <u>FRA National Home [https://www.fra.org]</u>
LA-FRA National: <u>Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association [https://la-fra.org]</u>
Southeast Region: <u>frasoutheastregion.org [https://frasoutheastregion.org]</u>
Branch 269 website: <u>FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269 [www.fra269gc.org]</u>

FRA Branch and Unit 269 | Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/groups/FRABRANCH269/]



SEPTEMBER 2ND LABOR DAY INDOOR PICNIC At the Home 1100-1400

Branch President's Corner

On behalf of the Fleet, I want to thank Johnny Brown for all the hard work in making our outdoor picnic such a successful event. On August 1, 2025, we held the Coast Guard Birthday celebration. The cake was cut by the youngest and oldest. The cake was then shared with by numerous attendees.

Our monthly meeting was conducted on August 21, 2025. The second reading of the proposed bylaw changes were present. They will be voted on at the September meeting. The voting delegates to the Southeast and Nation Convention were selected and approved.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service Don Barton Branch 269 President

Thoughts from Your Unit President:

The August meeting had a wonderful turn out, it was nice seeing old and new faces.. Started off by welcoming two new auxiliary members: Julie Becker and Roberta Kolbe

Also, Congratulations to Annie Bain, she was presented with her 25-year service pin Mark your calendar:

The last Federal holiday of the summer season is

around the corner:

Sept 1st Labor day and we will have our annual indoor Picnic.

Sept 16 at 11:30 Luncheon at the home (ALL ARE WELCOME)

Sept 16th 6:00 Unit Meeting

Sept 22-26 in Warner Robbins, GA the Southeast Convention

Sept 21 Bunko 11:30 Come one come all Sept 27th Golf Tournament

Everyone loves a party so come out to the home on October 11th and help to source the pills for our weekly drawing.

Change can often be uncomfortable, but it can also offer great rewards. I am asking you to step out of your comfort zone and try something different. Think about our three cardinal principles, use our history, embrace our organization and be caring. Rather than finding barriers that divide us. The only success we have is the 3-Rs—Retain, Recruit and Reinstate. A clever way to spread the word of what the LA FRA does is to wear your unit attire when you are out. We need to make a statement about who we are.

In closing, I send my thoughts and prayers to those members and families facing illness or mourning the loss of a loved one. Best wishes to all celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or any special occasion- may you enjoy many more joyous celebrations to come!



In Loyalty, Protection and Service NFS Pat Suckow, PNP Unit 269 President

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

8/5: Mervin Wiands [Branch], not signed

8/12: Charlie Hudson [Branch], not signed

8/19: Lynnette Jordan [Branch], not signed

8/26: Fred Bolz [Branch], signed, not present

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 on the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2000.

Branch Treasurer's Report June 28, 2025 – July 27, 2025

Cash in Bank – Checking \$7,997.19
Cash in Bank – Convention Checking \$20.03
Cash in Bank – Savings \$5,190.98
Cash in Bank – Certificate of Deposit \$12,115.81
TOTAL \$25,324.01

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace Total active members: 731 end of July Transfer Out [3]: Joseph Malocheski; Chris McCool; Steve Obermann

New Join/Reinstated [6]: Harold Clayton; David DeChant Jr.; Rogelio Fulgencio; Peter Garrison; Charles Magano; David McNeely

Past Due [16]: Bobby Beck; Elmer Feeser; Matthew Frazier; Richard Glass; Harold Herrington; Charles L. Hollowood; Stephen Jeffery; Douglas Jordan: Kenney Lonnie; William Ragan; Arthur Robinson; Joseph Schepisi; Brian Sims; Michael Sparks; Timothy Thrower; Brad Wonderliing

Ready to Renew [26]: Johnny Aldea; Mark Archambean; Bobby Barbee; Dillion Brown; Robert Bryant; John Cardno; Kevin Deise; Pacifico Dela Fuente; Mark Erwin; Michael Fusari; George Gilford; Michelle Goad; Jamaal Goss; Richard Harbold Jr.; Lewis Leal Jr.; Gordon Long; Chris Ludwig; Robert MacPherson; Anthony Mazza; Michael Quigley; Cubit Robinson; Bob Segal; Joseph Shea; Thomas Sullivan Jr.; Robert Temple; Jerry Young Suspended [9]: Richard Bishop; Donald Blackwelder; Rick Collins; Michael Dellenbach; Jeff Latourelle; Howard Luper; Ralph Mummey; Cecil Skipworth; Albert Stoll

• Active Unit Members: 194

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

30 days past due [1]: Anita Wright

60 days past due: [0]: 0 90 days past due [0]: none Active Members: 194

BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Hospital/Welfare/Rehabilitation:

• Two-bell was held for Shipmates CPO Elmer "Moon" Mullins, PO2 Jeff Latourelle, and DC2 Paul March, Jr.

Shipmates or Unit members please contact:
Branch Chaplain S/M Bobbi Sutton @
843.541.2823 or 843.879.9473
Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @
843-535-2757

Home Committee Report

Cash Audit as of **16 August 2025** is as follows:
Checking Account balance \$13,746.46
Savings account \$20,459.88
Credit Card account available \$17,655.47
Pending Check/Cash for deposit \$1,774.50
Registers/Cash Funds \$11,250.00
Total funds \$65,136.31
Net Profits: June \$4,771.83 / July \$8,376.23

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

- We are considering moving more money into the savings account after all bills are paid.
- Labor Day Indoor Picnic on Sept. 1st
- Golf Tournament on Sept. 27th
- Eight bricks orders; \$800 profit used to purchase banquet room TV and bracket
- Thanks to Ladies Amy Osborne & Kim Vandiver for volunteering in the kitchen

Membership and Security:

• HQ reports 731 Active members; 194 Unit members

New Business

- Several new business items were discussed and voted on. Check the Home Committee report in the newsletter online.
- These included: banquet room TV purchase/ installation; storage room usage; kitchen floor repair; gear room sink repair; parking lot drainage problems; management of Home activity calendar; reserved parking spot raffle; vaping and smoking banned indoors

Good of the Order:

- SUBVETS have donated to the Home \$1,000.00 per year beginning 1 Sept
- Next Home Meeting is 15 Sept at 1800 Laura Bailey, Home Committee Chairman

Americanism/Patriotism - PNC Laurie Bailey

Updates on Branch Essay Contest for the 2025 A/P contest on the website at

2026 FRA Member Scholarship.pdf

Dates to Remember

29 August - USMC Reserves Founded (1916)

01 September - Labor Day

2 September -VJ Day -Japan Signs Surrender 1945

07 September – Grandparents Day

11 September – Al-Qaeda Terrorist Attacks on the United States (2001)

11 September - United We Stand / Patriot Day

17 September - Citizenship Day

Newsbytes: The Fleet Reserve Bulletin

The Newsbytes are sent throughout the month from National to all FRA members via email. A direct link to Newsbytes is on the FRA269 Website Home Page to gain access to the Newsbytes

Newsbytes August 1, 2025

- Sam Brown to Lead VA Memorial Affairs
- President Trump Signs VA Home Loan Reform Act
- ♦ Military Moves in Transition
- ♦ DOD's New myAuth System
- Marine Corps Offers Early Discharge Program
 Newsbytes August 8, 2025
- TFL Drops Weight Loss Medication
- ♦ VA Extends Community Care Authorizations
- ♦ DPAA Updates Families on MIAs Efforts
- ♦ VA Ends Most Union Contracts

Newsbytes August 15, 2025

- ♦ A Travel Claims Now on Mobile App
- ♦ Caregivers File Suit Over Denied Benefits
- ♦ Support the ACCESS Act
- ♦ USCG Commissions First Icebreaker in 25 Years
- ACES Act Signed Into Law

Newsbytes August 22, 2025

- VA IT Modernization Improves Services for Veterans
- ♦ FRA Attends Express Scripts Meeting
- ♦ New TRICARE Prime Option Coming to Atlanta and Tampa
- ♦ DOD Civilians Await Decision on Commissary

MEAL HOURS FOR THE HOME Lunch Hours Mon-Fri 1100-1300. Dinner Hours Mon-Fri 1700-1900 FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

4 Person Captain's Choice 27 Sept 2025 0900 POC Larry Pepper 843-569-2692

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION 97/92 NATIONAL CONVENTIONS 3-8 NOVEMBER 2025

will be held at Oasis Hotel and Conference Center 2546 N. Glenstone Ave. Springfield, Missouri Ph# 417-866-5253.

Room rates are \$119 per night; more for suites.

Newsletter #1

Newsletter #2

Newsletter #3

Newsletter #4



Prepare for VA's removal of DS Logon Tips to create your sign-in account

On **September 30, 2025**, we'll remove the **DS Logon** username and password option from VA online services. After this date, you can only use a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account to sign in to My HealtheVet on VA.gov, VA mobile apps, and other VA online services to manage your VA benefits and care.

If you don't have a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account, we encourage you to create one soon to make sure you're ready for the change. Thank you for helping us reduce sign-in options and continue to protect your—and all Veterans'—information and benefits from scammers.

Get tips for creating your sign-in account

Manage your VA information all in one place

Your VA.gov Profile is a section of VA.gov where you can sign in to review and manage your information and settings for My HealtheVet and other VA applications—all in one place.

Manage your VA.gov Profile

Where can I find my appointments schedule?

Did you receive a VA appointment notification, but you still have questions? You can always review your appointments on My HealtheVet to get details about your scheduled appointments.

Manage your appointments on My HealtheVet

Free Veteran Buddy Finder

Find people you served with and make contact using Together We Served's Veteran Buddy Finder. Over 2.5 million Veterans registered with service histories.

FIND YOUR BUDDIES

Healing with Heart: What 100 Fisher Houses Means to Veteran and Military Families

Since 1990, Fisher Houses have provided a comfortable home away from home—at no cost—for military and Veteran families whose loved ones are receiving medical care at military and VA medical centers.

FIND A FISHER HOUSE

Branch/Unit 269 website: fra269gc.org!!!!

Get your current and past newsletters and see upcoming events. The website has allowed a drastic decrease in the number of printed and mailed newsletters resulting in saving money. Contact me **webmaster@fra268gc.org** if you want to stop your current printed copy.

Use the Branch and Unit Membership Boxes outside the office for new member and renewal applications. When you recruit a new member ensure all of their information is correct on the application. Place the new application/renewal in an envelope (available at the box) and place inside the "Membership Box". **Nothing**

concerning membership will be placed in the pass down log.

Life Membership ages and dues

Active duty: \$400.00 Ages 40 & younger: \$450.00

Ages 41-50: \$425.00 Ages 51-60: \$390.00 Ages 61-70: \$340.00 Ages 71-80: \$260.00

Ages 81-99: \$200.00

Ages 100 and older: FREE

The Security Corner

Provided by: George Birmingham ET1(SS) USS

H.L. Stimson SSBN655—G/SY1/G 69-74, USSVI Carolina Piedmont Base, Holland Club

Recent Scams for May through June, 2025

Welcome back Shipmates to the Security Corner for September. As discussed in prior columns, there is a continuing stream of scams in play, and the scammers and criminals keep inventing new ways to get our identity and our hard-earned money. This month there are a few alerts to share that are most interesting.

May 26, 2025 - New Online Shopping Credit Card Scam

You will see ads while playing games on the iPad for things that look interesting but appear just too good to be true. This article talks about ads that are AI generated and how to watch out for the tell-tale signs of a scam. And the biggest take-away to is this: Never use a debit card for on -line purchases, because the law does not protect you as much from fraudulent use and a debit card has direct access to all your funds in the attached bank account.

June 23, 2025 – How Scammers Hack Your Bank Account

Having worked for 19 years in the banking industry, this one is pretty important to know about. The article speaks to a number of bad things that can happen if your bank account number and the routing number of your bank were disclosed to scammers. The article also notes, in light of mailbox surfers stealing outgoing mail looking for checks, you really need to take mail that are bearing checks to the post office and not place them in the street mailbox. Although most of us write few paper checks these days, it is still good advice.

And finally – A video featuring Frank
Abagnale, Jr regarding check washing and a \$2
pen that can protect you. I actually heard him
speak in person at Wachovia Bank where I
worked in the Information Security Department.
He is an amazing speaker. I hope you enjoy it.I
have used the pen he recommended only for
check writing since seeing him speak for my
check writing activities

How a \$2 Pen Can Help Protect You from Fraud

BRANCH 269

BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Don Barton
Vice President: Steve Koch
Secretary: Sarah Ihme
Treasurer: PNP Don Mucheck
Jr. Past President: Ken Hutchinson

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PNC Laurie Bailey
PRPSE Fred Bolz
Ron Lamon
Glenn Little
Bobbie Sutton
David Mattingly
Tim Bailey
Larry Pepper
Tom Lawson
Ken Wallace
Johnny Brown
John Tharp

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz Chaplain: Bobbi Sutton

Essay Contest: PNC Laurie Bailey

Legislative Affairs / VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

Master-at-Arms: Glenn Little

Membership: Ken Wallace Parliamentarian: PNP Don Mucheck

Public Relations: John Tharp Ways and Means: Larry Pepper Webmaster: Nick Nichols Newsletter: Nick Nichols

Youth Activities: Ed Peters

AFRA UNIT 269

UNIT OFFICERS

President: NFS Pat Suckow, PNP Vice President: Debbie Breeze Secretary: Amy Osborne Treasurer: Gale Nathan, PNC

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Sorenson Sue Peters Dee Wallace Ann Griffith

Linda Nichols

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Amer/Patriotism: Linda Nichols Chaplain: Theresa Milligan Hospital: Theresa Milligan Membership: Debbie Breese Publicity: Debbie Breeze Sergeant-at-Arms: Kim Vandiver

Ship's Store: Sue Peters
Unit Activities: All Members
VAVS: Theresa Milligan
Welfare/Rehab: Sue Peters
Youth Activities: Anne Barton/

Gale Nathan

LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC 99 Wisteria Road, Goose Creek SC 29445 843-569-2692 Frabranch269@comcast.net

Home Chairman: PNC Laurie Bailey Admin Secretary: Sarah Ihme Financial Sec: PNP Don Mucheck

Director: Sue Peters
Director: John Tharp
Director: Tim Bailey
Director: Dee Wallace
Director: Ken Wallace
Director: Kim Vandiver
Director: Ken Hutchinson
Home Managers: Larry Pepper
Bob Zauner
Don Garrand



Branch VP Steve Koch presents Branch President Don Barton with the Recruiting Award



PNC Laurie Bailey presents Branch Treasurer
Don Mucheck with a Special Award for his work
with the as Home Manager and Branch
Treasurer



Past Branch President Ken Hutchison presents Certificates of Appreciation to Branch Officers and Board Members who assisted him during 2024-2025



PNC Laurie Bailey presents Past Branch President Ken Hutchison a Special Award for his Leadership while he was Branch President and Home Committee Chairman



BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—SEPTEMBER 2025

Benjamin Kluth Jr.	60	Ron Workman	25	William Cox	13	Jonathan France	1
Donald Hanley	54	James Sherrow	24	Donald Langdon	10	George Gilford	1
Larry Born	43	Jack Collier	23	James Bellemare	9	Jamaal Goss	1
Willard Burton Jr.	39	Ronald Litzenberger	20	Jason Anderson	8	Stevven Harrison	1
Joseph Shea	37	Sam Pennington	20	Vernice Smith Jr.	6	James Livingston	1
Robert Crenshaw	29	Parke Manuel	19	Clarence Peifer	4	Robert MacPherson	1
William Martin II	29	Donald Heinle	18	Earl Spurlock	4	Anthony Mazza	1
Michael Clemens	26	Herbert Franklin	17	Johnny Aldea	2	Warren Sparks	1
Charles Clore	25	Michael Fusari	17	Kevin Crawford	2	Robert Temple	1
Merrell Peterson	25	Rodney McKanna	16	Michelle Goad	2	Matthew Young	1
Kenneth Seal	25	Michael Hadbavny	15	Richard Harbold Jr.	2	Saralyn Young	1
Franklin Shoenberger	25	Michael Sosa	13	Jeff LaTourelle	2		

UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—SEPTEMBER 2025

Barbara Moyer	38	Sandra Medley	14	Linda Lunn	8	Georgia Cathcart	4
Wanda Seay	33	Charles Schuster	14	James Highberger	7	Jonathan Price	1
Carmela Day	21	Kathy Sorenson	14	Janice Highberger	6	Kathy Sumner	1
Brenda Frye	21	Robin McKeown	11	Karen Hubert	6	Jeanette Walker	1
Anna Brown	17					_	

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN SEPTEMBER 2025

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!!!**

Edward Fisher	1	Richard Hair	7	Michael Cousino	1.4	John Paul	20
	1		- /		_		22
Jeffrey Hamm	1	Kenneth Hutchison	_	Thomas Jennings	_	Cynthia Young	22
Thomas Irvine	1	Danny Trapp	7	Tammy Miller	+	PRPSE Gail Bolz	23
Robert Richardson	1	Robert Hedin	_	Linda Nichols	_	Raymond Clark	23
Paul King	2	Roland Kring	8	James Wilcutt Jr.	14	Michael Mercer	23
Carla Passmore	2	Robert Stancik	8	Edward Bowles	16	John Tharp	23
Debrah Rullman	2	William Hunter	9	Ernest Sweat Jr.	16	Annie Bain	24
Joseph Shea	2	Paul McHugh	9	Linda Vinson	17	Michael Fremen	24
Robert Windrow	2	John Glass	10	Thomas Chilton	18	Benita Kinlaw	24
Alan Lincoln	3	Gary Hinks	10	Mike Ciesielko	18	Curtis March	24
Dennis Lanier	3	Robert Lopez	10	Anna Brown	19	Raymond McKinley III	24
Cecil Skipworth	3	Daniel Mckieman	10	Patrick Demody	19	Jeanette Walker	24
Charles Szad	3	Joseph Taschner	10	Brian Murphy	19	Scott Salisbury	24
Jeffrey Kirksey	4	David Greeno	11	Don Pace	19	Benjamin Becker	26
Kimberly Vandiver	4	Daron Myers	11	Wayne Suckow Jr.	19	Bruce Tucker	26
Jack Wrbanich	4	Robert Stodola	11	Walter Mabe	20	Tammy Cappadona	27
Jimmie Gambrell	5	David Taschner	11	Michael Markiewich	20	Oscar Diano	27
Scot Huber	5	William Lindler	12	James Turner Jr.	20	William Dunsing	27
Wanda Seay	5	Michael Steele	12	Milton Willoughby	20	Thomas Evans	28
Jessica Murphy	5	Randall Bolin	13	Robert Bear	21	Louis Goehring	28
Robert Curtis	6	Don Kopczynski	13	Michael Clemens	21	Joseph Perillo	28
Allen Katen	6	Kevin Scott	13	Michelle Goad	21	Mary Johnson	28
Larry Knutson	6	Mike Sroka	13	Robert Ingebretson	21	Donald Blackwelder	30
Dennis Cox	7	Gary Thomas	13	Holly Gordon	22	Earl Goodell	30
Charles Gravley	7	Jason Anderson	14	Clarence Hall	22		

FRA 269 COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AUGUST 1, 2025





























9/11 Something really important to think about in your life – Not just THIS Day but – EVERYDAY.

On this day, in 2001 246 people went to sleep in preparation for their morning flights. 2606 people went to sleep in preparation for work in the morning. 343 firefighters went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift. 60 police officers went to sleep in preparation for their morning patrol. 8 paramedics went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift of saving lives. None of them saw past 10 a.m. September 11, 2001. None.

Life is random - In one single moment, life may never be the same.

Tonight, as you go to sleep in preparation for your life tomorrow, kiss the ones you love, Hug your spouse and snuggle a little tighter, and never take one second of your life for granted. Never.



Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions
Unless noted otherwise all meetings are in the large room
Where no time noted group has room for entire day
Friday nights – 1930 – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

SEPTEMBER 2025								
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
	1 LABOR DAY 1100-1400 Fleet Indoor Picnic	2	3	4 1800 SUBVET BOD	5	6		
7 Free Pool	8	9	10	11 PATRIOT DAY 1900 SUBVETS Mtg	12	13 1000 DAV Mtg 1600-2130 MCL		
14 Free Pool 1100-1300 Unit Audit	15 1800 Home Committee	16 1130 Unit Lunch 1800 Unit Mtg	17	18 1800 Branch BOD 1900 Branch Mtg	19 NATIONAL POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY	20 1000-1200 MilFrat		
21 Free Pool 1130-1600 Bunko	22 1730-1900 VVA Mtg 1900-2030 Metal Detectors Club	23	24	25	26	27 0900- Golf Tournament		
28 Free Pool	29	30						

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions
Unless noted otherwise all meetings are in the large room
Where no time noted group has room for entire day
Friday nights – 1930– Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

OCTOBER 2025								
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
			1	1800 SUBVETS BOD	3 1200-? Curtis Wedding Setup	4 1500-? Curtis Wedding		
5 Free Pool 1200-1600 Bunko	6	7	8	9 1900 SUBVETS Mtg	10	11 1000 DAV Mtg		
12 Free Pool	US NAVY BIRTHDAY 1775 1800 Home Committee	14 1130 Unit Lunch 1800 Unit Mtg	15 1900 Purple Heart	16 1800 Branch BOD 1900 Branch Mtg	17	18 1000-1200 MilFrat		
19 Free Pool	20	21	22	23 1900 MCL	24	25		
26 Free Pool	27 1730-1900 VVA Mtg 1900-2030 Metal Detectors Club	28	29	30	31			

FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 BOD MEETING AUGUST 21, 2025

Shipmate President Don Barton called the regular Low Country Branch 269 meeting to order at 1800, Thursday, August 21, 2025, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

Board Members present were:

PRPSE Fred Bolz Ron Lamon Ken Wallace Don Barton PNC Laurie Bailey John Tharp Bobbi Sutton Steve Koch

Tim Bailey David Mattingly Johnny Brown PNP Don Mucheck

Larry Pepper Glenn Little Sarah Ihme

Other members present were Ken Hutchinson and Nick Nichols.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism: PNC Laurie Bailey Will report at the general assembly meeting.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz

Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Legislative Service and VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

We have two bells for Shipmates Elmer Mullins and Paul Thomas March. Will report on others at the general assembly meeting.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Youth Activities: Ed Peters

Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Public Relations: John Tharp

Will be sending information to the newspaper.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Golf: Larry Pepper

Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Budget and Finance: Glenn Little

Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Home Committee Report: Laurie Bailey Will report at the general assembly meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PNP Don Mucheck completed the Regional Delegate Credential report and mailed it in. PNP Don Mucheck was appointed as Chairman and PNC Laurie Bailey as Co-Chairman.

• MOTION: PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded that the delegation form be approved and allow the Chairman and Co-Chairman to add delegates to the form. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PNP Don Mucheck submitted the ad for the Southeast Regional Conference.

• **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and Laurie Bailey seconded that we \$150 for a full-page ad in the Southeast Region. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

In the past, we paid 50ϕ per member for the convention booster rolls.

• MOTION: PNC Laurie Bailey motioned, and S/M Larry Pepper seconded that we include only the names of the officers and board of directors in the Southeast Region booster roll. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Our website's license was renewed for \$97.90. This was charged to the FRA Credit Card for the Home, and we need to reimburse \$97.90 to the Home.

• **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and S/M Steve Koch seconded that we reimburse the Home \$97.90. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Home paid for four key cards, four steak dinners, and the US Coast Guard cake for \$184.23. We need to reimburse the Home for these items.

• **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and S/M Glenn Little seconded that we reimburse the home \$184.23. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

We have a receipt from National Headquarters for membership pins for \$590.

• **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and PNC Laurie Bailey seconded that we pay \$590 to National Headquarters. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PNC Laurie Bailey has been putting out essay contest information. She requests reimbursement for postage and envelopes.

• **MOTION:** PNC Laurie Bailey motioned, and S/M Bobbi Sutton seconded that she be reimbursed \$68.58 for postage and envelopes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

For the National Convention, we need to have a delegate list. We also need to pay for an ad for the National Convention.

• **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded that we spend \$150 for full page ad. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The National Convention has not asked for a specific amount for booster rolls.

• **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded that we spend at least \$50 for the National Convention booster roll. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

In the past, we have allocated money to help the delegates pay for the expenses associated with the cost of attending the conventions.

• MOTION: PNC Laurie Bailey motioned, and S/M Tim Bailey seconded that we reimburse \$100 for Regional and \$150 for National to each delegate, provided that they attend each meeting. Motion carried with one nay.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

S/M Bobbi Sutton motioned, and S/M Ken Hutchinson seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 1819.

FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 MEETING OF AUGUST 21, 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Shipmate President Don Barton called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 1900, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

Visitors: The Auxiliary.

Shipmates Initiated: None

Minutes: Published in the newsletter. The minutes stand as approved.

Communications: None

Treasurer's Report:

The report for the period of June 28 – July 27, 2025 is as follows:

General Checking: \$7,997.19 Savings Account: \$5,190.98 Certificate of Deposit: \$12,115.81 Convention Checking: \$20.03

Total: \$25,324.01

All bills received to date have been paid.

Continuous Membership:

August 2025

Robert Kirtley – 45 Years Robert Bryant – 40 Years Mark Erwin – 10 Years

Randall Bolin – 15 Years Peter Andruchowsky – 5 Years

Charlie Hudson – 15 Years

Bill Sellers – 15 Years

Ronnie Jones – 5 Years

Bob Segal – 5 Years

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

Dates in History August/September

- 29 August USMC Reserves Founded (1916)
- 01 September Labor Day
- 02 September VJ Day Japan Signs Surrender 1945
- 07 September Grandparents Day
- 11 September Al-Qaeda Terrorist Attacks on the United States (2001)
- 11 September United We Stand / Patriot Day
- 17 September Citizenship Day

We have just announced the Americanism/Patriotism Essay Contest for Grades 7-12 for all of the Lowcountry schools. We are also accepting entries from all over the United States. Information is on the table in the foyer, and an email was sent out to everyone. It is also on the home page of the website. The deadline is 01 December.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz

We have the changes to the Lowcountry Branch 269 bylaws that were read last month. They need to be approved this month.

• MOTION: PRPSE Fred Bolz motioned, and PNC Laurie Bailey seconded that the proposed amendments to FRA Branch 269 bylaws be approved. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Legislative Service & VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

The VAVS report is on the board. Newsbytes have been sent out for everyone to read.

Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

Tom Lawson has been in the hospital and is home now.

Jerry Stout underwent a recent PET scan, which showed no residual skin cancer cells.

Walt Deal's granddaughter's heart surgery went great.

Fred Woodley had a procedure that went well.

Rick Wise had a CT scan with good results.

Kit Sparger is at home.

Ken Curtis is at home with hospice care coming to the house several times during the week.

Bill and Becky Roberts are living in the Villages.

Tommy Dempster is still at The Bridge.

PRPSE Fred Bolz's wife, Gail, has been diagnosed with ALS.

We will have a two-bell for S/M Paul March and S/M Elmer Mullins.

We had a memorial service for S/M Bill Jenkins on 13 July.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 731

New Join/Reinstated: David DeChant Jr., Rogelio Fulgencio, Peter Garrison, Charles Magano, David McNeely

Past Due: Bobby Beck, Elmer Feeser, Matthew Frazier, Richard Glass, Harold Herrington, Charles Hollowood, Stephen Jeffery, Douglas Jordan, Lonnie Kenney, William Ragan, Arthur Robinson, Joseph Schepisi, Brian Sims, Michael Sparks, Timothy Thrower, Brad Wonderling

Ready to Renew: Johnny Aldea, Mark Archambean, Bobby Barbee, Dillon Brown, Robert Bryant, John Cardno, Kevin Deise, Pacifico Dela Fuente, Mark Erwin, Michael Fusari, George Gilford, Michelle Goad, Jamaal Goss, Richard Harbold Jr., Lewis Leal Jr., Gordon Long, Chris

Ludwig, Robert MacPherson, Anthony Mazza, Michael Quigley, Cubit Robinson, Bob Segal, Joseph Shea, Thomas Sullivan Jr., Robert Temple, Jerry Young

Term: Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Rick Collins, Michael Dellenbach, Howard Luper

Dec: Jeff Latourelle, Ralph Mummey, Albert Stoll

Active Unit Members: 194

Youth Activities: Ed Peters

Nothing to report.

Public Relations: John Tharp

We had a celebration for the Coast Guard birthday last month. A picture was sent with an article to the FRA today. Information was sent to the Summerville Journal on community events at the FRA.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

Get your 50/50 and steak dinner tickets.

Golf: Larry Pepper

The next golf tournament will be on September 27, 2025.

Budget and Finance: Glenn Little

The next quarterly audit will be mid-September.

Home Committee Report: PNC Laurie Bailey

Financial Report:

Balances as of 16AUG25: Checking \$13,746.46; Savings \$20,459.88; Credit Card \$17,655.47; Pending Deposits \$1,774.50; Registers/Cash Funds \$11,250. Total Funds \$65,136.31. Net Profits: June \$4,771.83; July \$8,376.23.

Building and Grounds/Special Events Manager's Report:

We are considering moving more money into the savings account at the end of the month, after all bills have been paid; Labor Day indoor picnic on September 1st; Golf Tournament on September 27th; Eight more bricks ordered; \$800 profit used to purchase a banquet room TV and brackets.

Membership and Security:

FRA HQ reports 731 Active Members and 194 Unit Members.

Old Business:

Items going into the storage room should be organized and placed on shelves.

New Business:

Storage rooms will have posted organization rules; The sink in the gear storage room needs to be repaired; A discussion was held regarding drainage problems in the front parking lot. Estimates to correct the drainage problems range \$9,000-\$18,000. This item has been tabled for now until we have more funds; The Home Managers will maintain the office calendar of events, including

Branch and Unit meetings and Home events; We will have a raffle for a reserved parking spot; This year is the 250th Anniversary of the Navy and Marine Corps. We are looking for a banner to hang in the Home; Vaping will be banned indoors at the Home. Signage will be posted.

Good of the Order:

The SUBVETS voted to donate \$1,000 per year to the Home for the use of the space; We had an inquiry on kitchen profit and loss statements and Rules and Regulations, which were answered; The next meeting will be on 15 September at 1800.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Southeast Regional Delegates have been named for the Regional Convention.

• **MOTION:** PNC Laurie Bailey motioned, and S/M Tim Bailey seconded that the Delegation Credential Certificate be approved, and the Chairman will add names as needed. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Board of Directors recommended that we spend \$150 for a full-page ad for the Southeast Convention program.

• **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and S/M Ken Hutchinson seconded that we allocate \$150 for the ad. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Board of Directors discussed the cost associated with attending the Conventions and recommended \$100 to each delegate attending the Regional Convention.

• MOTION: PNC Laurie Bailey motioned, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded that we award \$100 to each delegate attending the Southeast Convention and who attends all meetings. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Board of Directors recommended that we spend \$150 for a full-page ad for the National Convention program.

• **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck motioned, and PNC Laurie Bailey seconded that we allocate \$150 for the ad. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Board of Directors recommended \$150 to each delegate attending the National Convention.

• MOTION: S/M Tim Bailey motioned, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded that we award \$150 to each delegate attending the National Convention and who attends all meetings. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Board of Directors recommended we spend 5ϕ per member for the booster roll for the National Convention program.

• MOTION: PRPSE Fred Bolz motioned, and S/M Tim Bailey seconded that we spend 5¢ per member. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The National Delegates have been named for the Regional Convention.

• MOTION: PRPSE Fred Bolz motioned, and S/M Glenn Little seconded that the Delegates are approved for the National Convention, and the Chairman will add names as needed. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

S/M President Don Barton recommends that PNP Don Mucheck be Chairman and PRPSE Fred Bolz be Co-Chairman for the National Convention.

- **MOTION:** PNC Laurie Bailey motioned, and S/M Tim Bailey seconded that these Chairmen are approved. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.
- MOTION: PRPSE Fred Bolz motioned, and PNP Don Mucheck seconded that Branch 269 endorse PNP Virgil Courneya as the next National Executive Director of the Fleet Reserve Association.
- **SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** S/M Ken Hutchinson motioned, and S/M Bobbi Sutton and S/M Larry Pepper seconded, that we table further discussion regarding NED endorsement until the next meeting, so members have the opportunity to review the candidates' resolutions and biographies. Motion carried with one nay.

Note: Because the substitute motion to table carried, the original motion to endorse did not pass.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Unit Report: Amy Osborne (for NFS Pat Suckow)

Pat Suckow had surgery last Friday. Theresa Milligan fell and broke her hip and was in the hospital as of Tuesday. Gail Bolz has been diagnosed with ALS.

We have 194 members.

We awarded Annie Bain a pin for 25 years of continuous membership. We also inducted two new members.

We are holding a drive for pet and school supplies and are accepting donations. The pet supplies will be distributed to shelters throughout the Tri-County area, and the school supplies will go to Berkeley Elementary School.

The cutoff to reserve a hotel room for the Regional Convention is September 1st. Meal order forms with payment are due by August 22nd.

S/M Nick Nichols commended S/M Johnny Brown for his work with the SUBVET/FRA picnic in July. We had 95 people attend, and it was a good picnic.

S/M President Don Barton received the Fleet Reserve Association's FRA Membership Drive 2025-26 lapel pin for recruiting three new or reinstated members.

S/M Ken Hutchinson presented Certificates of Appreciation to the officers who served during his Presidency.

PNC Laurie Bailey presented S/M Ken Hutchinson with a plaque in appreciation for his service as Branch President for the past three years.

PNC Laurie Bailey presented PNP Don Mucheck with a plaque in recognition of his hard work as Home Manager and all that he has done for FRA Branch 269.

The two-bell ceremony took place.

Meeting adjourned at 1954.

FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 HOME COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 18, 2025

PNC Laurie Bailey called the Low Country Branch 269 Home Committee meeting to order at 1757 on Monday, August 18, 2025.

Board members present: PNC Laurie Bailey, PNP Don Mucheck, Shipmates Sarah Ihme, Tim Bailey, Ken Hutchinson, Ken Wallace, and John Tharp; Ladies Sue Peters, Amy Osborne, Dee Wallace, and Kim Vandiver.

Other members present: Shipmate Vice President Steve Koch, PRPSE Fred Bolz, and Home Managers Larry Pepper and Bob Zauner.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting were approved as posted, with no corrections or objections.

*MOTION: S/M Ken Wallace motioned, and Lady Amy Osborne seconded that these minutes be approved

Financial Reports

Balances as of 16AUG25: Checking \$13,746.46; Savings \$20,459.88; Credit Card \$17,655.47; Pending Deposits \$1,774.50; Registers/Cash Funds \$11,250. Total Funds \$65,136.31. Net Profits: June \$4,771.83; July \$8,376.23.

• **MOTION: PNP** Don Mucheck motioned, and S/M Ken Hutchinson seconded that the Financial Reports be accepted.

Building and Grounds / Special Events Manager's Report:

We are considering moving more money into the savings account at the end of the month, after all bills have been paid.

Labor Day indoor picnic on September 1st.

Golf Tournament on September 27th.

Eight more bricks ordered; \$800 profit used to purchase banquet room TV and brackets.

Thanks to Ladies Amy Osborne and Kim Vandiver for volunteering in the kitchen.

• **MOTION:** Lady Amy Osborne motioned, and Lady Dee Wallace seconded that the Building and Grounds / Special Event Manager's Report be accepted.

Membership and Security:

FRA HQ reports 731 Active Members. Recent changes: 3 losses, 5 reinstated, 16 past due, 26 ready to renew, 9 terminated. There are 194 Unit Members.

• **MOTION:** Lady Dee Wallace motioned, and Lady Kim Vandiver seconded that the Membership and Security Report be accepted.

Old Business

The status of the TV purchase was discussed under Building and Grounds. The installation is still

being worked on.

Items going into the storage room should be organized and placed on shelves.

The kitchen floor requires repair; mats are recommended short term.

New Business

Monthly volunteer cleaning to care for areas not covered by the cleaning crew and for the grounds. Next date will be September 8th at 1800.

Storage rooms will have posted organization rules.

The sink in the gear storage room needs to be repaired.

• **MOTION:** Lady Amy Osborne motioned, and S/M Ken Hutchinson seconded to repair the sink.

A discussion was held regarding drainage problems in the front parking lot. Estimates to correct the drainage problems range \$9,000-\$18,000.

• **MOTION**: S/M Ken Hutchinson motioned, and S/M Tim Bailey seconded that we table this proposal.

The Home Managers will maintain the office calendar of events, including Branch and Unit meetings and Home events.

A discussion was held on raffling a reserved parking spot to raise money for the Home.

• **MOTION:** S/M John Tharp motioned, and Lady Kim Vandiver seconded that we raffle a parking spot every 6 months.

This year is the 250th Anniversary of the Navy and Marine Corps. We are looking for a banner to hang in the Home.

Pills for weekly drawing and lettering for the board in the bar were purchased. S/M Sarah Ihme requests reimbursement of \$18.18.

Vaping will be banned indoors at the Home. Signage will be posted.

• **MOTION:** S/M Ken Wallace motioned, and Lady Amy Osborne seconded that we ban smoking and vaping.

Good of the Order

The SUBVETS voted to donate \$1,000 per year to the Home on the 1st of September.

PRPSE Fred Bolz inquired on the kitchen profit and loss statements and Rules and Regulations.

Food runs at cost, and is offset by bar sales. The kitchen SOPs are posted with the bylaws.

The next meeting will be on 15 September at 1800.

• **MOTION:** S/M Ken Hutchinson motioned, and S/M Tim Bailey seconded that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 1855.

Auxiliary of the FRA, Unit 269 Minutes, August 19, 2025 FRA Home, Goose Creek, SC

President, NFS/PNP Pat Suckow, called the regularly scheduled General Assembly meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Visitors: (None)

Drape the Charter: (None)

Roll Call of Officers. President, NFS/PNP Pat Suckow; Vice President Debbie Breeze; Treasurer PNC Gale Nathan and Secretary Amy Osborne, and JPP Trish Chilton were present.

Roll Call of Board of Directors. Kathy Sorenson, Sue Peters, Ann Griffith, Gail Bolz, Dee Wallace, Linda Nichols were present, and Anne Barton was absent.

New Member Initiation. New Members Roberta Kolbe and Julia Becker were initiated by NFS/PNP Pat Suckow.

Minutes. June was approved with one change. Linda Nichols was installed last month to the Board of Directors rather than being initiated.

Membership Report. Debbie Breeze.

Members as of June 1 -- 182; Reinstated - 5; New - 14; Transferred In - 0; Transferred Out - 0; Resigned - 0; Non-Payment - 5; Deceased - 1; Ineligible - 0; Other - 0; Active Members - 195.

Treasurer's Report. PNC Gale Nathan.

Balance brought forward: \$14,698.92. Disbursements: \$631.00. PCT Auto Deposits: \$212.50. Unit Deposits: \$1017.00 Checking account balance \$15,297.92. Savings: \$3,161.94. Balance on hand: \$18,459.39.

Bills to be paid: None

Chaplain's Report: Theresa Milligan.

Not present

Correspondence: Amy Osborne.

None

Activities: All Members.

Golf Tournament – Next will be September 27. Discuss under The Good of the Order.

Americanism/Patriotism: Linda Nichols

August 18 – September 19

Aug. 29 – USMC Reserves founded (1916)

Sept. 1 – Labor Day (1894)

Sept. 2 V-J Day – Victory over Japan (1945)

Sept. 7 – Grandparents Day (1978)

Sept. 11 – Patriot Day (2001)

Sept. 19 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Audit: Sue Peters, Kim Vandiver

Audit will be held on September 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Hospital: Theresa Milligan

Not Present.

VAVS: Theresa Milligan

Not Present.

Publicity: Debbie Breeze

Debbie Breeze gave reminders of next month's lunch and meeting day. Gale Nathan reminded that Bunko was August 24th.

Welfare / Rehabilitation: Sue Peters

Sue will be contacting Ruth Butka at Berkeley Elementary School to set a date after Labor Day to bring the supplies we collected to the school. Donations for school supplies and pets can still be made.

Youth Activities: Anne Barton, Gale Nathan

Gale Nathan stated that we have sent money to support three youth sport teams by paying \$675.00.

Ship's Store: Sue Peters

Sue Peters is taking orders for shirts after the meeting tonight. The name will say Auxiliary of the FRA. Please let her know if you would like to place an order.

Unfinished Business:

Debbie Breeze motioned that we move the luncheon to two weeks opposite our meeting date. Kathy Sorenson seconded. Motion failed 6 to 5.

Pat Suckow – Units inducting new members need to ensure that due diligence is being exercised when approving the relationship status of a new member. There was a recent occasion when an applicant was approved, however the proper verification was not completed. The membership had to be rescinded. Please make sure that proper verification is provided when you are asking members to join.

Debbie Breeze made a motion to sell Rada Knives as a fundraiser. Ann Griffith seconded. We will be taking orders in time for Christmas. Motion carried 10 to 2.

We decided to table the discussion of a second yard sale until a future meeting.

Gale Nathan motioned that we have a cake auction on Halloween October 31st. Kim Vandiver seconded. Motion carried. Members are asked to provide cake or desserts for auction.

The next Pill Party is October 11th. Amy Osborne will follow up on the time.

New Business:

National Convention - NFS/PNP Pat Suckow, PNC Gale Nathan will be attending. Amy Osborne will ensure the paperwork is completed.

Booster Roll –PNC Gale Nathan motioned that we send money for 20 members rather than the entire roster. Dee Wallace seconded. Motion carried to submit \$95.00 for all members.

Amy Osborne made a motion to purchase a \$150.00 full page ad for the National Convention. Gale Nathan seconded the motion. Motioned carried.

NFS/PNP Pat Suckow presented Annie Bain with her 25-year Continuous Service pin and a certificate honoring her service.

Good of the Order:

Important September Dates

Sept. 1 Labor Day and indoor picnic Sept. 16 Luncheon 11:30 at the Home

Sept. 21 Bunko 12:30

Sept. 22-26 SE Convention in Warner Robbins, GA

Sept. 27 Golf tournament

Oct. 11 Pill Party at the Home

The golf tournament will be covered by Kim Vandiver, Gale Nathan and Dee Wallace in the morning at the golf course. The afternoon will be covered by Sue Peters and Kathy Sorenson at the Home.

Please remember that we make update on the FRA Branch and Unit 269 Facebook page.

The next regularly scheduled General Assembly meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.