



Scuttlebutt

Branch/Unit 269 Goose Creek, South Carolina

You can read all newsletters at [269 Branch/Unit 269 Newsletters](#)

Fleet Reserve National: [FRA National Home \[https://www.fra.org\]](https://www.fra.org)

LA-FRA National: [Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association \[https://la-fra.org\]](https://la-fra.org)

Southeast Region: [frasoutheastregion.org \[https://frasoutheastregion.org\]](https://frasoutheastregion.org)

Branch 269 website: [FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269 \[www.fra269gc.org\]](http://www.fra269gc.org)

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



OLD FASHIONED NAVY BREAKFAST

FRA branch 269 will sponsor an Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast on **12 April, 0900-1100** at the Home. Scrambled eggs; Red SOS; Chipped Beef on Toast; Grits; Bacon; Sausage links; Biscuits; Fruit; Milk; Coffee and Orange Juice.

Cost: \$12.00 Contact email for more info:
frabbranch269@comcast.net

Congratulations to the following Branch 269 Shipmates who became Life Members during the third and fourth quarters of 2024.

Gary W. Clinefelter [July]

Steven Harrison [September]

Warren Ray Sparks [September]

NOMINATIONS for BRANCH Officers, Board and Home Committee will take place in April with elections in May.

Now is the time to step up to be a leader in **YOUR** Branch

Branch President's Corner

As winter departs and the warm breeze of spring arrives we look forward to a very busy schedule.

Congratulations to the winners and participants of the annual American essay contest. Thank you PNC Laurie Bailey for a great job.

Congratulations also to 50 year membership awardees Frank Carrol, Robert Mustain and Joe Ondo

April will be busy with Nominations for your officers, board members and home committee members. Elections will be held in May so come out and have an input in the management of your Home and branch.

Up coming events include Old Fashioned Navy breakfast Sat 12 April (09/11) \$12 per, BBQ smoker raffle to follow. USS Hobson memorial Sunday 27 April at 13:30. National president Maria Behm will be the guest speaker. A Kentucky Derby Party is scheduled for 3 May so come out and enjoy your home.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service
Ken Hutchison

Madam President Tidbits

Hello Auxiliary Members:

Our March meeting went well. We are having an indoor yard sale on March 29th. We will set up on the 28th from 1200 to 1900. The sale will start at 0800 and end at 1300.

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

The Pilgrimage is coming up in May for anyone who would like to attend. Also, Bunco will be April 13th.

We will be at the VA Clinic on Rivers Ave, April 29th from 0800 to 1200 to pass out snacks and assist patients.

We are working on approval of our updated By-Laws and Standing Rules.

Our nominations for Unit Officers will be at our next meeting. Will be looking forward to seeing everyone there.

The next Ladies Luncheon will be April 15th at Gilligans in Goose Creek.

Trish Chilton, Unit President

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

3/4: George Bradstreet [Branch], unsigned;

3/11: Rebecca Moseley [Unit], unsigned;

3/18: Jonathan Starry [Branch], unsigned;

3/25: Roger Fincher [Branch], unsigned.

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

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 28, 2025 – FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Operations: \$ 6,504.86

Savings: \$ 5,185.65

Certificate of Deposit: \$ 11,838.30

Convention Checking: \$ 1,845.02

Total: \$25,373.83

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

S/M Ken Wallace

- New or reinstated members: 2
- Transferred into Branch 269: 1
- Transferred from Branch 269: 0
- Members past due: 18
- Ready to renew: 40
- Suspended members: 5
- Total Members: 761 end of Feb

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 761 end of Feb

New Join/Reinstated [1]:

- Kenneth Pitcher

Transfer In [1]:

- David Mattingly

Past Due [18]:

- Randall Bolin, David Button, Shannon Cason, Everette Coates, Rick Collins, Tim Cowan, Kevin Henry, Ronald Houde, William Hunt, Robert Isaman, Samuel Jenkins Jr., Jahleel Jones-Valentine, Heather McGuire, Nathaniel Nelson, Kevin Sedgley, Jon Simmons, Jacob Sobeck, Daniel Speight

Ready to Renew [40]:

- Mariela Anderson, Jennifer Beilstein, Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Ronald Bowers, Roy Brosseau, Richard Davies, James Delaney, Michael Dellenbach, Dana Disinger, Terrie Ehlich, Lewis Flader, Jeannette Gombash, Nathan Gottsch, John Hills, David Horton, Robert Hudspeth, Raymond Jaekle, Lynnette Jordan, John Keile, Robert Koscianski, Ronald Laqua, Joe Lunn, Howard Luper, Walter Mabe, Ray Marshall, Robert Massey, Robert Mixon, Ron Morgan, Eugene Morris, Patrick Murphy, Don Ort, Cody Schaefer, Michael Scott, Robert Simmang, Cecil Skipworth, David Southall, Samuel Williams, Richard Wise, Frederick Wolstencroft .

Suspended [5]:

- Mashelle Ames, Angela Chapman, Herbert Hiatt, Richard Jones, David Thomas

Active Unit Members: 190

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

30 days past due: Maria Luisa Gulick; Colleen E. McCain; Susan S. Westbury

60 days past due: None

90 days past due: Judy S Dziedzicki, Christopher M Gillespie, Joseph D Tascher, Linda J Villa, Linda G Walton

BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

Prayers for the families of:

- S/M Frank Schoenberger EMCS on the passing of his wife this week
- Two-bell ceremony held for EMC Charles M. Riggs, EMCS Thomas Wunder, MS1 Donald

Rickert, MRCM David Graminski, ETCM
Everett Coates and TMC Franklin Osburn.

- Two-bell ceremony will be held for TMC(SS)
Franklin D. Osburn on Monday, March 24th.

Binnacle List:

- Marty Sessler is in the hospital with double pneumonia and bacterial blood infection. No visitors.
- Jerry Stout is managing skin and prostate cancer with treatment plans.
- Rick Carlson diagnosed with low level prostate cancer.
- Dave Harvey's neck surgery was successful.
- Ken Curtis is home with hospice care nurses coming several times during the week.
- Roger Rader is able to walk with the aid of a walker.
- John Lookabill will have heart valve repair surgery on March 24th.
- Al Stoll is in Room 3 at the skilled nursing section at the Villages at Summerville rehab center.
- Bill and Becky Roberts are living in the Villages

Shipmates or Unit members please contact:

**Branch Chaplain S/M Bobbi Sutton @
843-879-9473**

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

NEW MEAL HOURS FOR THE HOME

Lunch Hours Mon-Fri: 1100-1300.

Dinner Hours Mon-Fri: 5:00 pm-9:00 pm

Home Committee Report

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch on **15 March**

2025 as follows:

Checkbook balance	\$ 24,993.92
Credit Card account	\$ 3,654.43
Savings account	\$ 10,454.62
Pending Check/Cash for deposit:	\$ 2,924.00
Total funds	\$ 52,526.97

Bank Statement for February 2025 reflected a gain of \$2,400.35 for the month and a cumulative loss for the year 2025 of \$1,345.88 [1.79%]. Bank Statement for February 2025 reflects gross profit of \$22,248.27 and a YTD gross profit \$44,768.45.

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

- The second fryer was purchased and installed.

Looking ahead:

- The next Golf tournament will be on March 22nd followed by lunch and awards at the Home.
- The Unit is sponsoring an indoor yard sale on March 29th. Those having items to sell or donate please bring them in to the Fleet on Friday March 28th between 1300-1900.
- April 12th there will be an old-fashioned Navy Breakfast at the Home from 0900-1100.
- On April 27th we will honor the USS Hobson with a ceremony at the Home.
- Also checking to see if there is any interest in a Kentucky Derby Party May 3rd at the Home.
- We are moving forward with planning a Kentucky Derby Party May 3rd at the Home. Watch for details and announcements.

Membership and Security:

- Headquarters reported that we have 761 active Branch members as of 3 March.
- There are 190 active Unit members.

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, April 14th at 1300.

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

Ken Wallace, Home Committee Chairman.

**Americanism/Patriotism - PNC Laurie Bailey
Updates on Branch Essay Contest**

- ⇒ Branch Essay Contest Awards were presented at the March 20 General Assembly meeting.
- ⇒ New information for the next Essay Contest will be posted on the website in September.

Dates in History March / April

- ◇ **1 April** Chief Petty Officers Grad Established [1893]
 - ◇ **9 April** National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day
 - ◇ **11 April** Submarine Force Day / Submarine Force Birthday [1900]
 - ◇ **13 April** National 65th Infantry Regiment Day
 - ◇ **13 April** Palm Sunday
 - ◇ **17 April** Patriots Day
 - ◇ **18 April** Doolittle Raid over Tokyo [1943]
 - ◇ **20 April** Easter
 - ◇ **22 April** Earth Day
 - ◇ **24 April** Administrative Professional Day
 - ◇ **25 April** Arbor Day
-

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

Use the site to get your current and past newsletters and see upcoming events. With all the information now on the website the number of printed and mailed newsletters have been reduced. Contact me at

webmaster@fra268gc.org if you are currently receiving the printed copy and want to stop it.

For new member applications and renewals applications use the Membership Box outside the office. If you recruit a new member ensure all of their information is correct on the new member application. After verifying it is complete, place the new application or renewal place it 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**

VA ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Shipmates and Auxiliary, are you retired with little to do during the day?

Ever though of VOLUNTEERING at the local VA facilities: R.A. Johnson VAMC - N. Charleston VA Clinic - Goose Creek VA Clinic [NWS]. You will be helping our Disabled Vets at these facilities.

If so there are easy to do tasks at all facilities:

- Call Reminders to patients
- Escort Patients to appointments, give directions
- Coffee cart duties
- Volunteer Driver and other various tasks.

If interested contact

**PRPSE Fred Bolz [843.270.0345] or
Volunteer Services [843.789.7230**

Newsbytes: The Fleet Reserve Bulletin

The Newsbytes are sent throughout the month from National to all FRA members via email.

There is a direct link to Newsbytes on the FRA269 Website Home Page so if you accidentally delete the email use this information to gain access to the Newsbytes

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Newsbytes March 7, 2025

- President Trump Address Congress
- Proposed Cuts of Nearly 80,000 At VA HVAC Hearing on Unaccredited Claims Agents
- FRA Attends Joint HVAC and SVAC VSO Hearing
- VA Announces Plans For EHR Rollout

Newsbytes March 14, 2025

- FRA Seeks Answers on Proposed VA Staffing Cuts
- Supreme Court Upholds Limits on Veterans' Appeals
- HVAC Legislative Hearing CR Passes House
- Trump Administration Ordered to Reinstate Fired VA Workers

Newsbytes March 21, 2025

- Military Families Face Key Health Care Deadlines by March 31
- The 2025 National Veterans Day Poster Contest
- DOD to Cut \$580 Million in Spending Veterans Affairs Secretary Defends Workforce Cuts
- VA to phase out treatment for gender dysphoria

Newsbytes March 28, 2025

- FRA Engages Congress on VA Cuts
- HVAC Subcommittee Reviews 13 Bills
- Senate Confirms Paul Lawrence as New VA Deputy Secretary
- Military Stores Brace for Tariffs
- Labor Department's ENPP Boosts Jobs
- Transitioning Service Members
-

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

The 97th FRA and the 92nd Auxiliary, FRA National Conventions will be held 3 to 8 November 2025 at the Oasis Hotel and Conference Center, 2546 N. Glenstone Ave. Springfield, Missouri; Ph# 417-866-5253. Room rates are \$119 per night; more for suites.

MORE SECURITY TIPS & TECH NOTES

This is something our shipmates using anything Alexa might need to know. Story came out yesterday:

Amazon's Privacy Ultimatum Starts Today: Let Echo Devices Process Your Data or Stop Using Alexa

From the article:

"Starting today, those who own an Echo smart speaker or Echo Show display won't be able to block their devices from sending all voice recordings to Amazon for analysis. The retail juggernaut's disturbing change in its privacy policies is creating a privacy ultimatum -- essentially making consumers choose between their privacy and using these devices at all."

KnowBe4 Security Tips - Steer Clear of Fake Login Pages

For cybercriminals, stealing your login information can be just as valuable as stealing your bank account information. If they gain access to your email and password, they may find clues in your account that they can use to create highly targeted phishing attacks against you, your organization, or your family. Once the hackers have your login information, the hackers can even sell it for payment.

How Does It Work?

A popular method used to steal your credentials is to use fake login pages to capture your login details. These types of attacks usually start with a phishing email that directs you to use a link in the email to "log in to your account". The emails are usually authentic-looking and present a seemingly normal request. If you click this link, you're brought to a login page that looks almost identical to the one you're used to but is actually a fake page. Once you've entered your email and password on the fake page, you may be redirected to the real website--leaving you unaware that your login credentials were stolen.

How Do I Spot a Fake Page?

As the first line of defense, always navigate to your account's login page by typing the web address in your browser, or using a bookmark that you've saved--rather than clicking through links in an email. Also, be aware of the following tips to help you identify fake web pages:

- Pay attention to the address bar. To be on the safe side, make sure the website starts with https:// before entering any personal information.
- Check the domain name. Make sure that the website that you are on is correctly spelled and not mimicking a well-known brand or company.
- Watch for poor grammar and spelling. An excess of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar mistakes can indicate that the website was put together fairly quickly with no regard for professionalism.

Look for reliable contact information. If you can find another way to contact the brand or company, reach out to them to confirm the email is real.

Walk away from deals that are too good to be true. Some retailers will discount older merchandise but if the latest item is also heavily discounted, walk away. It's probably too good to be true!

23andMe bankruptcy: How to delete your data and stay safe from the 2023 breach

Posted: March 25, 2025 by David Ruiz

The genetic testing company 23andMe filed for bankruptcy on Sunday, announcing that, in searching for financial stability through its sale to a new owner, the business will continue operating as normal, including in how customer data is handled.

"The company intends to continue operating its business in the ordinary course throughout the sale process," 23andMe wrote in a news statement. "There are no changes to the way the company stores, manages, or protects customer data."

For some customers, that's exactly the problem.

In 2023, not only did the company suffer a major data breach, it also placed some of the blame on the victims who, according to 23andMe, "negligently recycled and failed to update their passwords." With concerns now swirling about exactly who will become the new steward of 23andMe's data following its bankruptcy, customers are asking how they can secure their most private genetic information, if at all.

If you would like the full story **[READ HERE](#)**

VA INFO

Dear Veteran,

The VA Health Chat app lets you easily connect with VA staff online. Through the app, you can chat by text to a real person to ask questions about your health concerns. You can get medical advice for non-life-threatening injuries or illnesses in minutes. You can even schedule VA appointments, refill VA prescriptions, and more. VA Health Chat services are offered at no additional cost.

The following channels are available in VISN 7:

- **Clinical Triage:** Ask questions about non-life-threatening injuries or illnesses.
- **Pharmacy Support:** Ask questions about your VA prescriptions and request refills.

Scheduling and Administration:

Schedule VA appointments or ask administrative questions.

Hours vary by location, but you can connect with VA staff in most participating locations Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time, excluding federal holidays. In some locations, staff are available on weekends or 24/7.

To access the app, [sign in to My HealtheVet on VA.gov](#). You can also access VA Health Chat on the [VA App Store](#) or download it from the Apple App Store or Google Play. For security reasons, you'll need to sign in to the app with VA-supported credentials. You may use your [Login.gov](#) or [ID.me](#) account.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely, The My HealtheVet team

What to Do if You Haven't Switched to Login.gov or ID.me Yet

On March 5, we removed the option to sign in to VA websites and apps with a **My HealtheVet** user ID and password. Don't worry. You can still use your My HealtheVet health portal and other VA online services. But you'll now need to sign in to them with a

modern, secure [Login.gov](#) or [ID.me](#) account. If you're ready to create your new account, follow our step-by-step guidance.

[**Create your secure sign-in account on VA.gov**](#)

Try the New Medications Tool on VA.gov

We're building the new [My HealtheVet portal on VA.gov](#) so you can manage your health care needs in the same place that you manage your other VA benefits and services. We're also improving the trusted health tools you use today. And we want your feedback to help us make sure these tools serve your needs.

As part of this effort, we've built a new version of the My HealtheVet medications tool on VA.gov. We encourage you to try it now.

[**New Medications Tool**](#)

Veterans and COPD

Discover what else could be affecting your lungs

If you have trouble breathing, it could be a symptom of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD. COPD is a combination of ongoing conditions that affect your lungs and breathing. These conditions can include chronic bronchitis and emphysema. COPD can be prevented and treated. It can be recognized by its key characteristic: difficulty breathing, especially when breathing out. However, if you have COPD, you may have other symptoms.

If you think you're experiencing symptoms of COPD, start a conversation with your health care team. Knowing the signs of COPD is important. Here's what we know about COPD and what it might mean for your health.

[**Article Here**](#)

BRANCH 269

BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Kenneth Hutchison
Vice President: Donald Barton
Secretary: Sarah Ihme
Treasurer: Don MucHECK
Jr. Past President: Harry Nettles

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz
Chaplain: Bobbi Sutton
Essay Contest: PNC Laurie Bailey
Legislative Affairs: 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: Donald Barton

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

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRPSE Gail Bolz Kathy Sorenson
PNP/NFS Pat Sukow Sue Peters
Theresa Milligan Linda Cox
Ann Griffith Anne Barton

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

Amer/Patriotism: Vacant
Chaplain: Theresa Milligan
Hospital: Theresa Milligan
Membership: Marilyn Tharp
Parliamentarian: PRPSE Gail Bolz
Publicity: Debra Breeze
Sergeant-at-Arms: Kathy Sorenson
Ship's Store: Trish Chilton
Unit Activities: All Members
VAWS: Theresa Milligan
Welfare/Rehab: Sue Peters
Youth Activities: Anne Barton

LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC

99 Wisteria Road,
Goose Creek SC 29445
843-569-2692

Frbranch269@comcast.net

Home Chairman: Ken Wallace
Admin Secretary: Bobbie Sutton
Financial Secretary: Steven Koch
Director: Sue Peters
Director: PNC Laurie Bailey
Director: Tim Bailey
Director: Dee Wallace
Director: Kim Vandiver
Director: John Tharp
Director: Rob Melton
Home Managers: PNP Don MucHECK
Larry Pepper
Bob Zauner



**KENTUCKY
DERBY**

COME JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE KENTUCKY DERBY
AT FRA LOWCOUNTRY HOME

99 WISTERIA ROAD, GOOSE CREEK, SC

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

ENJOY MINT AND BLACKBERRY JULEPS, DERBY
HORS D'OEUVRES AND TRUE DERBY DESSERTS!!

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR FANCY HATS AND SPRING
ATTIRE. THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR THE BEST HATS. MEN ARE
ENCOURAGED TO WEAR HAWAIIAN OR SPRING SHIRTS.



**USS HOBSON (DD-646/DMS-26)
MEMORIAL SERVICE**

FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 HOME
99 WISTERIA ROAD, GOOSE CREEK, SC 29445

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

1:30 PM



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION
LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
HOBSON MEMORIAL SOCIETY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – FRA NATIONAL PRESIDENT MARIA A. BEHM
PRESENTATION OF WREATHS BY LOCAL PATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS
RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW AFTER THE CEREMONY

BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—APRIL 2025

Robert McNeish	61	David Graminski	26	Tommy Wilbanks	20	Robert Yancey	9
Donald Cady	54	Lynnette Jordan	26	Gerald Ott	19	Jeffrey Kirksey	8
Herbert Hiatt	50	Dannis Lambries	26	Edward Bowles	18	Jericho Garcia	7
Eugene Weir	46	Edward Smith	26	Brian Steffen	18	William Lindler	7
Thomas Seay	43	Richard Bishop	26	Rick Wise	18	Lawrence Coates	5
Ronald Brunner	41	Donald Blackwelder	26	Roy Brosseau	17	Ernest Culbreath	4
Eugene Lemieux	41	Michael Dellenbach	26	Louis Goehring	16	Arthur Raymond	4
Charles Gravely	40	James Mastin	26	Robert Massey	16	Michael Rikard	4
Gary Crozier	38	Cecil Skipworth	26	Bertil Johnson	15	Matthew Aguilera	3
Ralph Deeter	37	Jack Wrbanich	26	Roy Kingdom	15	Albert Schwartz	3
William Freligh	36	James Delaney	25	Fredrick Wolstencroft	15	Fredrick Sorenson	2
Lewis Flader	34	Edward Fretschel	25	Jaqueline Brooks	14	Jeffrey Bolduc	1
Gerald Monnat	32	John Keile	24	Howard Luper	13	Ronald Bowers	1
Hilton Hooks	31	Robert Stancik	24	Ronald Lamon	12	David Calderhead	1
Frederick Bolz	28	Joe Eudy	23	John Autrey	11	Roger Fincher	1
Alan Lincoln	29	David Horton	22	Ray Marshall	11	John Murphy	1
Charlie Calas	26	Paul McFall	21	Terrence Mummert	11	Michael Welch	1

UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—APRIL 2025

Linda A. Harris	34	Maryln L. Muckeck	12	Michael A. Dubay	7	Charlette B. Johnson	5
Cynthia M. Clark	25	Anne S. Barton	8	Kelly R. Hail	7	Jacqueline Paxton	4
Pat Suckow	23	Rebecca R. Bower	8	Carol M. Mustain	6	Beverly G. Shaffer	3
Deloris J. Cox	20	Connie R. Chinn	8	Therese A. Masterson	6	Krystal A. Shaffer	3
Gloria I. Boyln	14	Michael L. Steele	8	Barbara I. Berger	5	Gary W. Thomas	2
Mary S. Johnson	13	James R. Vinson	8				

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN APRIL 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!!!**

Donald Cady	1	Dennis Essenmacher	5	Judy S. Dzedzicki	13	Randy Reed	21
Jayne L. Campbell	1	Kent Wolcott	5	Carol L. Traynor	14	William Hayes	23
Mildred A. Koscianski	1	Joseph Giannetto	6	Lee Heitner	14	Michael Roth	23
Arthur Raymond	1	Dawna B. LaTourella	7	Richard Carlson	15	Robert Block	24
Albert Schwartz	1	Donald Detwiler	8	William Reed	15	George Bradstreet	24
Saralyn Young	1	Brenda W. Frye	8	Hazel Hacker	16	Charles Ethridge	24
Joe Eudy	2	Brenda L. Kraus	8	Daniel Montgomery	16	Karen D. Hightower	24
Roger Gibson	2	Gina L. Horne	9	Gordon Stevenson Sr.	17	Duane Henricksen	26
Richard Roebuck	2	Charles E. Schuster	9	Justin L. Highberger	18	Richard Jones	27
Joseph Schepisi	2	Charles Walton	9	Paul Misuraca	18	James Mastin	27
Mark Archambean	3	Terresa J. Hagan	11	Ronald Redondo	18	Raymond Montminy	27
Lori R. Beier	4	Gordon Gingras	11	David Southall	19	Marilyn Tharp	28
Charles Ivey	4	Edward Mulrey	11	Phillip Nunnally	20	William Martin II	29
Larry Pepper	4	Marion 'Wayne' Hall	12	Tammy L. Robinson	20	Larry Walton	30
Bob Segal	4	Theodore Martin	12	Ken Ealy	21	Eugene Weir	30
Richard Brown	5	Tony W. Osterman	12	Glenn Little	21		



During the Branch / Unit 269 General Assembly meeting on 20 March, Branch President Ken Hutchison and PNC Laurie Bailey present awards to the winners of the Essay Contest.



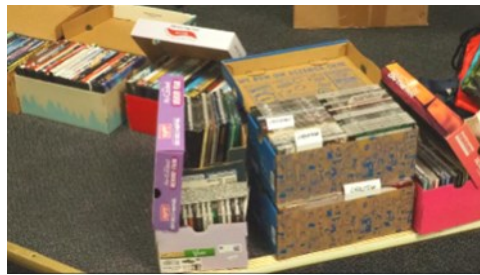
S/M Roy Jessup was installed as a new member of Branch 269 by S/M Secretary Sarah Ihme.



S/Ms Don Ort, John Tharp & Tom Lawson were presented their continuous membership pins by President Ken Hutchison.

S/M Ken Hutchison, PNC Laurie Bailey & PNP Don Muccheck were presented membership retention pins by Vice President Don Barton.





Unit 269 Ladies were hard at work during the Unit Yard Sale at the Fleet.

Something I thought was interesting. And we wonder why communication is so hard? Could this be a reason our fraternal organizations have difficulty reaching the military members of today?

Here’s Why Capital Letters May Soon Be a Thing of the Past

By Charlotte Hilton Andersen

Gen Z is canceling capital letters—should you join them or fight in grammar's last stand?

As a mother of four, I’ve learned to just nod and pretend I understand Gen Z slang—no cap, frfr. So when they stopped using capital letters and punctuation, I shrugged and figured it was another skibidi toilet thing. That is, until I had to help edit their school essays. Then I wanted to scream. Why were they so averse to the basic conventions of grammar? Why would they use text speak in formal essays? And—while we’re on the topic—why do they bypass the dishwasher and leave dirty dishes in the sink? Teens, amiright?

Apparently, I’m not the only elder millennial baffled by Gen Z’s creative approach to grammar. In fact, it’s a whole trend, says generational researcher Jason Dorsey, a business etiquette expert, the president of the Center for Generational Kinetics and the author of *Zconomy: How Gen Z Will Change the Future of Business*. “There’s definitely a trend where Gen Z eschews traditional grammar in written communications,” he says. “We see this particularly in how they have dropped using capital letters and punctuation.”

The moment he said this, I flashed back to a conversation with my 15-year-old daughter. She had just sent me a short text with no capitals and no punctuation. It felt abrupt and a little aggressive. “Your text is so short. Are you mad at me??” I asked her.

Her reply: “Why do you put exclamation points and question marks all over your texts? You don’t need them. It looks weird, especially when you do like three in a row.”

First of all, how dare she! Second, as an older millennial, I firmly believe that multiple exclamation points show enthusiasm!!! But Dorsey reassured me that this is normal. “Language is fluid, and conventions change all the time as societal norms evolve,” he says.

OK, fine. But why this? Or, as Gen Z would say: but why this

Read on to discover why Gen Z hates capital letters, how this affects the workplace and what to do when you receive a text that looks like a ransom note from a very chill kidnapper.

What does Gen Z have against capital letters?

According to Dorsey, Gen Z’s aversion to capital letters comes down to two main factors: the rise of casual, social media-driven communication and a decline in emphasis on traditional writing skills in schools.

READ THE REST OF THE STORY : Capital Letters May Soon Be a Thing of the Past—Here's Why

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

APRIL 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 <u>1900</u> Sojourners Mtg	3 <u>1800</u> SUBVETS BOD	4	5 <u>1000-1200</u> DAV Mtg
6 Free Pool <u>1600-2000</u> Waring Party	7	8	9 FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY <u>1900</u> Purple Heart	10 <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	11 SUBMARINE FORCE BIRTHDAY	12 <u>0900-1100</u> Good Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast \$12 pp
13 Free Pool PALM SUNDAY <u>1230</u> Bunko	14 <u>1300</u> Home Committee	15 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1800</u> Unit Mtg	16 <u>1800</u> Radio Club Mtg	17 PATRIOT'S DAY <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	18	19 <u>1000-1200</u> MILFRAT
20 Free Pool EASTER	21 <u>1700-2000</u> Persimmon Hill HOA	22	23	24 MCL	25	26 <u>1600-????</u> Savage Party
27 Free Pool <u>1330</u> Hobson Memorial Service	28 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg <u>1900</u> Carolina Coins Mtg	29	30	31		

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

MAY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <u>1800</u> SUBVETS BOD	2	3 <u>1000-1200</u> DAV Mtg <u>1700-2000</u> Kentucky Derby
4 Free Pool <u>1200-1400</u> Baby Shower	5	6	7	8 VE DAY 1945 <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	9	10
11 Free Pool MOTHER'S DAY	12 <u>1300</u> Home Committee	13 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1800</u> Unit Mtg	14 <u>1900</u> Purple Heart	15 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	16	17 ARMED FORCES DAY <u>1000-1200</u> MILFRAT
18 Free Pool	19	20	21 <u>1800</u> Radio Club Mtg	22 MCL	23	24
25 Free Pool	26 MEMORIAL DAY <u>1100-1400</u> Fleet Indoor Picnic <u>1900</u> Carolina Coins Mtg	27	28	29	30	31 Time Unk Graduation Party

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 BOD MEETING
MARCH 20, 2025**

Shipmate President Ken Hutchinson called the regular Low Country Branch 269 meeting to order at 1800, Thursday, March 20, 2025, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

Board Members present were:

PNC Laurie Bailey	Bob Zauner	Nick Nichols	Donald Barton
Ronald Lamon	Skip Chilton	Kenneth Wallace	PNP Don MucHECK
Glenn Little	Steven Koch	Larry Pepper	Sarah Ihme
Tom Lawson	Bobbi Sutton	Tim Bailey	Ken Hutchinson

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nominations will take place in April, with elections in May. If nominated for an officer, board, or home committee position, you must attend the general assembly meetings. If unable to attend, you must submit a written letter or email accepting your nomination or election.

The Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast will be on April 12. The drawing for the BBQ smoker will be on that same day. Letters of appreciation have been prepared for S/M Ed Young and S/M Ron Redondo, who have donated multiple items for raffles, including the smoker. Ray Stanfield will present these letters around noon.

We will have a Kentucky Derby party from 1500-2000. We will run 20 post positions. Winner gets 60%, second gets 20%, third gets 10%, and the Home gets 10%. We will have derby themed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and cake. Attendees are encouraged to dress in Derby-themed attire, men in spring shirts and ladies in spring dresses. There will be prizes for the fanciest hat.

We will have a Memorial Day ceremony at 1030. Retired Warrant Officer Bob McPherson will be the guest speaker. The ceremony will be followed by an indoor picnic.

Award presentations for the essay contest will take place at the general assembly meeting tonight. Cold cuts and finger foods, paid for by the branch, will be available at 1830.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

PNC Laurie Bailey sent out essay contest awards to the awardees who could not be present. She is requesting reimbursement of \$21.54 for postage. S/M Larry Pepper moved that she be reimbursed. The motion was seconded by S/M Tim Bailey and carried by a unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

We will present the essay awards during the general assembly. Our overall winner will read her essay at the meeting. Additionally, one of our first-place winners, who also placed second at the Regional level, will receive an additional award.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz/PNP Don MucHECK

Nothing to report for the Branch. PNP Don MucHECK and PRPSE Fred Bolz have been working with the auxiliary to update their bylaws. They will be making a proposal to the board of directors next month to approve those.

Legislative Service and VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

No report.

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

Five members will be honored with a two-bell ceremony.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Will report at the general assembly.

Youth Activities: Don Barton

Will report at the general assembly.

Public Relations: John Tharpe

No report.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

Will report at the general assembly.

Golf: Larry Pepper

Will report at the general assembly.

Budget and Finance: Don Barton

Will report at the general assembly.

S/M Bobbi Sutton motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by S/M Tim Bailey. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1816.

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
MEETING OF MARCH 20, 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Shipmate President Ken Hutchison called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 1900, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

Visitors: We had several guests present for the essay contest. The Ladies Auxiliary was present.

Essay Contest:

The winners are as follows:

First Place

Grade 8 Nichole Quick, Berkeley Middle School
Grade 9 Isabella Coeyman, Academic Magnet High School
Grade 10 Tyonica Eva Ravenel, North Charleston High School
Grade 11 Audrianna Amara, Hanahan High School
Grade 12 Christian Sinclair, North Charleston High School

Second Place

Grade 9 Cynthia Bender-Nunn, North Charleston High School
Grade 10 Diego Osequera, North Charleston High School
Grade 11 Mayan Ali, Hanahan High School

Third Place

Grade 9 Alyssa Mackenzie Reeves, North Charleston High School
Grade 10 Anastasia Barton, Berkeley High School
Grade 11 Jaydon Davis, Hanahan High School

Overall Winner - Audrianna Amara, Hanahan High School

The winners who were present received their awards. The overall winner Audrianna Amara, read her essay. Isabel Coeyman also received an award for placing second in the SE Region.

Shipmates initiated: Roy Jessup

Minutes: Posted on the entrance table and published in the newsletter. No corrections to be made and will stand as approved.

Communications: We received a letter from the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center thanking us for our donation of \$1,000. We received a notice that PNP Donna Jansky is running for National Executive Director. She sent a letter of resolution and asked for our endorsement for her in this position.

Treasurer's Report:

The report for the period of January 28 – February 27, 2025 is as follows:

General Checking: \$6,504.86
Certificate of Deposit: \$11,838.30
Total: \$25,373.83

Savings Account: \$5,185.65
Convention Checking: \$1,845.02

All bills received to date have been paid.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is none.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations will take place in April, with elections in May. If nominated for an officer, board, or home committee position, you must attend the general assembly meeting in May to accept the position. If unable to attend, you must submit a letter or email accepting your position to the Branch Secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

Dates in History March/April

- 25 March - National Medal of Honor Day
- 29 March - Vietnam Veteran's Day
- 1 April - Chief Petty Officer's Grade Established (1893)
- 9 April - National Former Prisoner-of-War Recognition Day
- 11 April - Submarine Force Day (1900)
- 13 April - National 65th Infantry Regiment (nicknamed Borinquenners) Day
- 13 April - Palm Sunday
- 17 April - Patriots Day
- 18 April - Doolittle Raid Over Tokyo
- 20 April - Easter
- 22 April - Earth Day
- 24 April - Administrative Professionals Day
- 25 April - Arbor Day

We gave out our essay awards. I will send out the new information for the next contest sometime in September. Information will be posted on the website.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz

Next month, we will have the auxiliary's updated bylaws to present to the board for approval.

Legislative Service and VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

The latest NewsBytes are posted.

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Centers in Charleston, North Charleston, and Goose Creek locations. Contact PRPSE Fred Bolz or the VA Volunteer Services if you are interested in volunteering.

Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

Marty Sessler is in the hospital with double pneumonia and a bacterial blood infection. No visitors. Jerry Stout is managing skin and prostate cancer with treatment plans. Rick Carlson was diagnosed with low-level prostate cancer. Dave Harvey's neck surgery was successful. Ken Curtis is home with hospice care nurses coming to his home several times during the week. Roger Rader is now able to walk with the aid of a walker. John Lookabill will have heart valve repair surgery on March 24th. S/M Frank Shoenberger lost his wife since our last meeting.

We will have a two-bell for EMC Charles M. Riggs, EMCS Thomas Wunder, MS1 Donald Rickert, MRCM David Graminski, ETCM Everett Coates, and TMC Franklin Osburn.

There will be a two-bell on Monday, March 24, at 1100 at Carolina Memorial for TMC Franklin Osburn.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 761

New Join/Reinstated: Kenneth Pilcher

Transfer In: David Mattingly

Past Due: Randall Bolin, David Button, Shannon Cason, Everette Coates, Rick Collins, Tim Cowan, Kevin Henry, Ronald Houde, William Hunt, Robert Isaman, Samuel Jenkins, Jr., Jahleel Jones-Valentine, Heather McGuire, Nathaniel Nelson, Kevin Sedgley, Jon Simmons, Jacob Sobeck, Daniel Speight

Ready to Renew: Mariela Anderson, Jennifer Beilstein, Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Ronald Bowers, Roy Brosseau, Richard Davies, James Delaney, Michael Dellenbach, Dana Disinger, Terrie Ehlich, Lewis Flader, Jeannette Gombash, Nathan Gottsch, John Hills, David Horton, Robert Hudspeth, Raymond Jaekle, Lynnette Jordan, John Keile, Robert Koscianski, Ronald Laqua, Joe Lunn, Howard Luper, Walter Mabe, Ray Marshall, Robert Massey, Robert Mixon, Ron Morgan, Eugene Morris, Patrick Murphy, Don Ort, Cody Schaefer, Michael Scott, Robert Simmang, Cecil Skipworth, David Southall, Samuel Williams, Richard Wise, Fredrick Wolstencroft

Suspended: Mashelle Ames, Angela Chapman, Herbert Hiatt, Richard Jones, David Thomas

Active Unit Members: 190

Youth Activities: Don Barton
Nothing to report.

Public Relations: John Tharp

The March/April FRA Today has a picture of the Toys for Tots from the last Toy drive. They also have a picture of General Livingston speaking at our convention. A picture of him receiving the lifetime membership was submitted, but was not published.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

Get your 50/50 and steak dinner tickets.

Golf: Larry Pepper

The next golf tournament is Saturday, March 22nd. We have 23 teams for a 0900 tee time. The next tournament will probably be late June.

Budget and Finance: Don Barton

I have the audit report for this last quarter. The checking and savings accounts and certificate of deposits funds are as PNP Don Mucheck reported which gives us a total cash balance of \$25,373.83. Stock inventory is \$5,145.70 for a total of \$30,519.53. All bills were in and paid for at that time. The next audit will be in May.

Home Committee Report: Ken Wallace

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch on 15 March 2025 as follows: Checking account balance \$24,993.92, Savings account \$10,454.62, and Credit Card account available balance \$3,654.43; there is \$2,924.00 in pending check/cash for deposit. Total Funds On hand \$52,526.97. Bank Statement for February 2025 reflected a gain of \$2,400.35 for the month and cumulative loss for the year 2025 of \$1,345.88 (1.79%). The Bank Statement for February 2025 reflects gross profit of \$22,748.27 and a YTD gross profit of \$44,786.45.

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

The second fryer was purchased and installed.

The next Golf tournament will be on March 22nd followed by lunch and awards at the Home. The unit is sponsoring an indoor yard sale on March 29th. Those having items to sell or donate, please bring them to the Fleet on Friday, March 28th, between 1300 and 1900.

April 12th, there will be an old fashion Navy breakfast, time 9am until 11am at the Home.

On April 13th, there will be Bunko at the Home, 1230.

On April 27th, we will honor the USS Hobson with a ceremony at the Home.

We are moving forward with planning a Kentucky Derby Party May 3rd at the Home. Watch for details and announcements.

Membership and Security:

Headquarters reported that we have 761 active Branch members as of 03 March. There are 190 active Unit members.

Good of the Order:

Our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, April 14 at 1300,

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

Unit Report: Trish Chilton

USS Hobson Memorial service, Sunday, the 27th of April, will be at 1330 at the home. The Ladies will wear all White. The Pilgrimage is coming up in May for anyone who would like to attend. Our next meeting will April 15th, Ladies' luncheon will be at Gilligan's in Goose Creek.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The USS Hobson Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, April 27, at 1330 at the Home. Invitations were sent to eight organizations. The American Legion Post 166 was requested to provide a color guard. PNC Laurie Bailey has accepted the request to give the invocation and benediction. The two-bell ceremony will be conducted by PNP Don Muccheck and S/M Chaplain Bobbi Sutton. National President Maria Behm has accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker, while SE Regional President Jerry Anger will also attend. SE Regional Auxiliary President PNP Carolyn Whitaker and National Financial Secretary of the Auxiliary Pat Suckow are unable to attend. Byron T. Addison, known as the Carolina Soul Man, will perform the National Anthem. Wreaths will be placed at the Battery on Saturday, April 26, and delivered to the FRA Home. PNP Don Muccheck will depart between 1130-1200 and encourages participation in the presentation. Of the two surviving USS Hobson shipmates, Ken Murdock passed away on February 2, 2025, leaving Shipmate George Oliver, 94 of James Island, as the last survivor. Efforts are being made to arrange his attendance. Forty-three additional letters were sent to the Hobson Memorial Society, their families, and friends. A reception will follow the service at the FRA Home, and more updates on participants will be provided as the date nears. A flyer for the USS Hobson Memorial is being distributed.

Vietnam Veterans Day will be at Patriots Point on Saturday, March 29th. A memorial ceremony will be held inside the Vietnam Experience Exhibit at 1100. Patriot's Point has partnered with the University of South Carolina Library to present a special screening of rare combat footage.

The Navy Band will perform at Charleston Southern University's Lightsey Chapel Auditorium on Sunday, March 30th, 1630 – 1800. The event is free, but ticket reservations are required.

Reminder that nominations for officers, board, and home committee are in April, and elections are in May. You must be present to accept your position or send communication to the Secretary that you will accept.

Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast will be Saturday, April 12th, 0900-1100. We will also do the drawing for the BBQ smoker.

The Kentucky Derby party will be on May 3rd 1500 – 2000.

On May 30th, we will have our Memorial Day program with Retired Warrant Officer Bob McPherson as guest speaker. We will give more information as the date nears.

The FRA National Conventions will be held November 3-8 in Springfield, Missouri.

Continuous membership:

March 2025

Frank Carroll, Jr. – 50 years
Robert Mustain – 50 years
Joseph Ondo, Jr. – 50 years
William Baranek – 30 years
James Lewis – 30 years
Carl Chinn – 25 years
Richard Duprey – 25 years

David Johnson – 25 years
Thomas Lawson – 25 years
Donald Detwiler – 20 years
Robert Harris – 20 years
John Tharp – 20 years
Don Ort – 10 years
Frank Yeager – 10 years

Shipmates Thomas Lawson, John Tharp, and Don Ort were present to receive membership pins.

Membership retention pins were presented to S/M Ken Hutchinson, PNC Laurie Bailey, and PNP Don Muckeck.

The two-bell ceremony took place.

The meeting adjourned at 2015 on March 20, 2025.

HOME COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 2025

The meeting was called to order by S/M chairman Wallace at 1300 on the 17th with seven members present, absent were, S/M's Chilton, Melton and Tharp. The managers S/M's Pepper, Muccheck, Zuaner the branch president S/M Hutchinson, Unit president Lady Chilton and S/M Bolz.

REPORTS

ADMINISTRIVE ACTION

The February minutes stand as printed.

FINANICAL CASH AUDIT

S/M Koch reported as of 3 15 2025 the following balances; the checking account \$24,993.92, credit card account \$3,654.43, our saving account \$10,454.62. There is \$2,924.00 in pending deposits. Our total cash on hand \$52,526.97. S/M Bailey said the cash audit should have the signatures of the auditors.

FINANICAL STATEMENT

S/M reported as of 2 28 2025 the following balances; checking \$12,872.05, credit card account \$2,352.11. The savings account \$10,453.82. WE had net profit of \$2,400.35 and a YTD of loss \$1,345.20

BUILDING AND GROUINDS/SPECIAL/MANAGER'S REPORT

S/M Pepper said the new fryer has been installed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The golf tournament will be this on sat, team time 0900. The unit is sponsoring an indoor yard sale on the 29th of March. Those having items please them at the fleet on that Friday. April 12th there will be an old fashion Navy breakfast, time 9am until 11am. On April 13th there will be Bunko. On April the 27th we will honor the USS Hobson, with a ceremony at the fleet.

MEMBERSHIP AND SECURITY

OLD BUSINESS

The storage room were cleaned out discarded or put side for other uses.

NEW BUSINESS

Lady Vandiver subjected the possibly of changing the time of the meeting, saying it would give those who would like, to attend, the opportunity.

- **MOTION** S/M Sutton seconded by Lady Wallace made a motion to table the changing of the meeting time of the committee. To be voted on at our April meeting. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

S/M Sutton seconded by S/M Koch made motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1345 Administrative Secretary

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

97/92 NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

3-8 NOVEMBER 2025

1st NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN

Jerry Lickteig PRPNC
816-699-2786
jerry@msginc.org

CO-CHAIRMAN

Doris Fri PNP
816-878-1720
doriscfri@gmail.com

VICE CHAIRMAN

Bob Behm
573-207-4670
bnm_77@comcast.net

VICE CO-CHAIRMAN

Donna Lickteig RPNC
816-769-7744
donna@msginc.org

SECRETARY

Chuck Ewy Br 316
417-861-9926
cmewy@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Tony Champagne
816-786-2355
tonyro58@gmail.com

The **97th FRA and the 92nd Auxiliary, FRA National Conventions** will be held 3 to 8 November 2025 at the Oasis Hotel and Conference Center, 2546 N. Glenstone Ave. Springfield, Missouri; **Ph# 417-866-5253.**

The Hotel is located seven miles from Springfield/Branson Regional Airport and 45 miles from Branson. The Flagship store for Bass Pro Shops is located in Springfield and a Buc-ee's is located five miles east off I-44.

Room rates are **\$119** per night; more for suites. Room block is 171 based on activity at the Hoover, Alabama National Convention. If required, overflow hotels are nearby.

If you require a scooter to get around, request a room on the ground floor.

Rooms come with complimentary **hot breakfast**. **ALL ROOMS have WALK-IN SHOWERS & RAISED TOILETS.** Fully handicapped rooms are limited.

Transportation to and from the Airport is included; **YOU MUST CALL the HOTEL and GIVE THEM DETAILS of YOUR ARRIVAL!!!!**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sun. 2 Nov. Afternoon: Hospitality Room opens

Mon. 3 Nov FRA PRP BoD

Breakfast Hotel Restaurant 0700;
Registration: Convention Center lobby;
FRA & Auxiliary Pre-Convention BoD Meetings 1300;
Other Meetings?

Tue. 4 Nov. 0930 Joint Opening Ceremonies;
1200 FRA & Auxiliary PNP Lunches;
FRA & Auxiliary RP, RPE & RVP Lunches
Workshops as scheduled by NHQ
1315: First Business Sessions;
1900: Welcome Aboard. Theme: **DOWN HOME!** Bib overalls, bandannas, straw hats; pinafores & bonnets, etc. OK.

Wed. 5 Nov. 0700: FRA PRP Breakfast Poolside;
0830ish: FRA Committee Meetings;
0830: Auxiliary 2nd Business session;
1200: PRP Auxiliary Lunch Poolside;
1300: FRA 2nd Business Session;
1315: Auxiliary Committee Meetings
Workshops as scheduled by NHQ;
Tours??

Thur. 6 Nov. 0830: FRA & Auxiliary 3rd Business Sessions;
1200: Auxiliary NP Lunch;
1315: FRA & Auxiliary 4th Business Sessions;
Workshops as scheduled by NHQ;
Tours??

Fri. 7 Nov. 0830: FRA: 5th Business Sessions – if required;
1300 or sooner: FRA & Auxiliary

Installation Rehearsal; Photos;
1730: Installation
1830: Banquet

Sat. 8 Nov. 0830: FRA & Auxiliary Post-Convention NBOD Meetings.

As of this publication, Tuxedo rentals are \$125 and scooters run \$175 per week.

JOURNAL & BOOSTER ROLL

Journal ads will run as follows:

Outside back cover \$250

Inside front & back 225

(includes color)

Full page 150

Half page 80

Quarter page 45

Eighth page 25

Business cards 25

Add \$5 for color except business cards.

Booster Roll: Whatever.

Email ads PDF and Booster names to the Treasurer tonyro58@gmail.com.

Send payments to:

97th FRA Nat'l Convention

310 SW 24th Terr

OAK GROVE, MO 64075

MEALS

Some have not yet been selected.

Direct questions to:

Norm COMBS PRPNC

816-847-6562/816-490-5304