



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/)


**FRA LOWCOUNTRY BRANCH
 AND UNIT 269 JOINT INSTALLATION
 CEREMONY AND DINNER
 SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025,
 DINNER AT 6:00 PM,
 INSTALLATION CEREMONY AT 7:00 PM.
 DINNER WILL BE LAGASNA,
 GARLIC TEXAS TOAST, AND SALAD
 TICKETS: \$5.00 PER PERSON**

Congratulations for Continuous Membership as of May 2025 [# of years]

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| John Casner Jr. [70] | Jerry Espiritu [25] |
| Phillip Smith [55] | James Harrison [25] |
| Robert Shoher [45] | Paul Langan [25] |
| Thomas Scott [40] | Keith Laster [25] |
| Merle Melling [35] | Mark Hunter [15] |
| Santos Riduca [30] | |

Branch President's Corner

Having completed three years as your Branch President, I would like to thank my officers and board members for being largely responsible for my success: PNP Don Mucheck, PNC Laurie Bailey, PRPSE Fred Bolz for their leadership and guidance as well as branch officer's V/P Don Barton, Treasurer PNP Don Mucheck, Secretary

Sarah Ihme, Branch Chaplain Bobbie Sutton, MAA Glenn Little, Board of Directors and Committee chair people.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| PNP Don Mucheck | Parliamentarian |
| PNC Laurie Bailey | Americanism/Patriotism |
| S/M Ken Wallace | Home/Membership |
| PRPSE Fred Bolz | Bylaws, VAVS, Legislative |
| S/M JE (Nick) Nichols | Newsletter/Webmaster |
| S/M John Tharp | Public Relations |
| S/M Don Barton | Youth Activities. |
| | Budget and Finance |
| S/M Bobbie Sutton | Health and Welfare |
| S/M Lary Pepper | Ways and Means |
| S/M Tim Bailey | Handyman |

Also, Low Country Branch 269 Home Managers PNP Don Mucheck and S/M Larry Pepper for keeping us afloat during difficult times as well as our Low country cooks Shipmates Ray Stanfield, Keith Laster and Johnny Brown ... and of course our wonderful Branch 269 LAFRA Unit Ladies.

Ken Hutchison

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

Madam President Tidbits

Hello Auxiliary Members:

Our May meeting was conducted on Tuesday the 13th. We had the final nominations and voted for Unit Officers. The following are the results of the election:

- President: NFS Pat Suckow
- Vice President: Debbie Breeze
- Secretary: Amy Osborne

Treasurer: PNC Gale Nathan
Board of Directors: Sue Peters, Dee Wallace, Ann Griffith, Linda Nichols, Kathy Sorenson, PRPSE Gail Bolz

Congratulations to them all.

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

The next Ladies Luncheon will be at 1130, June 17th at Gilligan's in Goose Creek. The installation of Officers will be June 7th and will count as the Unit meeting. It will start at 1800.

This will be my last Madam Tidbits. It was a pleasure working with everyone. Let's make the next year a great experience for everyone.

Continue to work with and be faithful to our new officers. My thoughts and prayers will be with everyone.

Trish Chilton, Unit President
Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

5/6: Patricia Day [AUX]; not signed

5/13: Robert Kirkley [AUX], not signed

5/20: Denise Barnes [BRANCH], not signed

5/27: Rocco Losito [Branch], not signed

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

March 28, 2025 - April 27, 2025

Checking:	\$ 6,677.69
Savings	\$ 5,187.74
Certificate of Deposit	\$11,838.30
Convention Checking	\$ 20.03
Total funds	\$23,723.76

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 739 end of April

New Join/Reinstated [4]:

- David Chapman, Thomas Ishee, Donald Wright, Fay Wright

Past Due [15]:

- Jennifer Beilstein, Richard Davies, Terrie Ehlich, Nathan Gottsch, John Hills, Robert Hudspeth, Raymond Jaekle, Ronald Laqua, Walter Mabe, Robert Mixon, Ron Morgan, Cody Schaefer, Robert Simmang, David Southall, Samuel Williams.

Ready to Renew [40]:

- William Ambler, Bobby Beck, Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Ludwig Burkle, Michael Delich, Michael Dellenbach, Joseph Dick, Elmer Feeser, Matthew Frazier, Richard Glass, Cynthia Hannah, William Hayes, Harold Herrington, Charles Hollowood, David Horton, Stephen Jeffery, Douglas Jordan, Lonnie Kenney, Larry Knutson, Howard Luper, David Mulrey, John Pontieri, William Ragan, William Reed, Robert Richardson, Santos Ricuda, Arthur Robinson, Scott Salisbury, Joseph Schepisi, Gregg Schneider, Thomas Scott, Brian Sims, Cecil Skipworth, Robert Sowards, Michael Sparks, Timothy Thrower, Martin Tinsley II, Jeffrey Wilmoth, Brad Wonderliing

Suspended [17]:

- Ralph Bates, Thomas Blalock, Felix Cabanting, Shannon Cason, Rick Collins, Stuart Erlandson, Kevin Henry, Robert Isaman, Willian Jenkins, Heather McGuire, Nathaniel Nelson, Donald Rickert, Kevin Sedgley, Fran Seitz, Martin Sessler, Ernest Smith, Daniel Speight.

Active Unit Members: 183

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

30 days past due [0]: none

60 days past due [2]: Frederick J. Kiley, Roberta V. Kiley

90 days past due [3]: Maria Luisa Gulick, Colleen E. McCain, Susan S. Westbury

Ready to Renew [9]: Charles A. Covell, Patricia D. Day, Lawrence M. Fowler, Faye E. Graham, Curtis J. March, Brian J. Marrale, Suzanne L. Peters, Kimberly D. Vandiver, Anita M. Wright

BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

- Kit Sparger has cancer in her bones, liver and lungs. We need to keep her in our prayers.
- John Tharp had a heart cath and is doing well.
- Continue praying for everyone who was on the list last month.

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 by S/M S. Koch and R. Sutton on **9 May 2025** as follows:

Checking Account balance	\$21,306.69
Savings account	\$10,456.37
Credit Card account available:	\$15,589.11
Pending Check/Cash for deposit:	\$1,539.00
Total funds	\$59,391.17

Financial statement for March 2025 reports Net Profit for month is \$18,830.84, Year to Date is \$17,485.64.

Financial statement for April 2025 reports Net Profit for month is \$2,703.47, Year to date is \$20,189.11

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

- The hot water heater has been replaced
- New kitchen refrigerator/freezer has been purchased and installed.
- Kentucky Derby Part on May 5th was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Looking ahead:

- May 24 the SUBVETS are hosting a Fish Fry at the home 1200-1700 at \$17.00 per person.
- The next Golf tournament will be on June 28th followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

Membership and Security:

- Headquarters reported that we have 739 active Branch members as of 7 May including 4 members (new/reinstated).
- There are 183 active Unit members.

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, June 16th at 1800. 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 for the 2025 A/P contest will be placed on the website soon.

- * 6 June: D-Day [1944]
- * 14 June: Flag Day
- * 15 June: Father’s Day
- * 17 June: US Navy Hospital Corps Established [1898]
- * 19 June: Juneteenth
- * 21 June: First day of summer
- * 25 June: North Korea invades South Korea [1950]

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

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Newsbytes May 2, 2025

- => Honors Rep. Garamendi with Pinnacle Award
- => FRA Board Brings Joy and Advocacy to VA Psyche Ward
- => SCOTUS Rules on Differential Pay
- => Congressional Hearing on VA Mental Health
- => Congressional Concerns Over VA Budget Mismanagement

Newsbytes May 9, 2025

- => FRA Pushes ACES [Aviator Cancer Examination Study] Act Through House
- => VA Streamlines Survivor Benefits Process
- => Secretary Collins' First VA Hearing
- => HVAC: Veteran Healthcare Access
- => Addressing Nutritious Food Access on Base

Newsbytes May 16, 2025

- => Addressing Shipmate Concerns With Congress
- => Executive Order Bolsters Veteran Support
- => VA Secretary Collins Attends HVAC Hearing
- => Thousands Disenrolled from Tricare West Region
- => Pope Leo XIV's Father Was WWII Navy Veteran

Newsbytes April 23, 2025

- => FRA Presents Award to Naval Academy Midshipman
- => FRA Backs Major Richard Star Act Presser
- => FY26 NDAA Priorities for Service Members
- => HVAC Hearing: VA Adaptive Programs

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

The 97th FRA and the 92nd Auxiliary FRA National Conventions 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.

For immediate release

May 19, 2025 11:00 am

Access to non-VA care no longer requires secondary approval

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-makes-it-easier-for-veterans-to-use-community-care/>

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced changes that will make it easier for VA-enrolled Veterans to access health care from non-VA providers at the department’s expense.

Since 2019, the MISSION Act has enabled VA-enrolled Veterans to access health care from non-VA providers at the department’s expense when it is in their best medical interest. These decisions have been made jointly by Veterans and their referring clinicians but were not considered final until they were reviewed by a second VA doctor.

Effective immediately, VA will implement language in the **Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act** that removes this extra review step. The change will give eligible Veterans faster access to community care.

“Under President Trump, VA is providing Veterans with more health care choices than ever before,” aid **VA Secretary Doug Collins**. “Now, we’re making it even easier for Veterans to get their health care when and where its most convenient for them. We are putting Veterans first at the department, and that means placing a premium on customer service and convenience. This important change will help us do just that.”

Background

Since 2019, the MISSION Act has given eligible Veterans the option of seeking community care outside VA when they meet any one of six conditions:

- When it is in the best medical interest of the Veteran.
- The care required is not available at a VA medical facility.
- The Veteran lives in a state or territory that does not have a full-service VA facility
- VA cannot meet wait time or distance standards:
 - o VA cannot offer appointment within 20 days for primary care, mental health or non-institutional extended care, or within 28 days for specialty care.

- o It takes more than a 30-minute drive to reach primary or mental health care, or a 60-minute drive for specialty care.
- o VA service does not meet certain quality standards.

The Veteran meets the grandfathered distance and location provisions of the former Veterans Choice Program.

The new, streamlined process for determining best medical interest will be backed by training for Veterans Health Administration employees to ensure compliance with the Elizabeth Dole Act.

Reporters and media outlets with questions or comments should contact the Office of Media Relations at **vapublicaffairs@va.gov**

Veterans with questions about their health care and benefits (including GI Bill). Questions, updates and documents can be submitted online.

**Important Update for all Veterans:
Use 843-577-5011 for All VA Health Care Calls**

We want to make you aware of an important issue that may be affecting your ability to contact your VA care team.

Some outdated clinic phone numbers have recently reappeared in Google search results. Please use the following number for all needs:

Call 843-577-5011 for appointments, questions, and all VA health care services.

This is the official phone number for the Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System and all associated clinics. It is staffed by our centralized Call Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our trained staff will ensure your call is routed to the right team.

Please also note:

For life-threatening emergencies, always call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

If you or a Veteran you know is in emotional distress or crisis, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 988 and press 1. Help is available 24/7.

You can also utilize MyHealtheVet secure messaging for non-urgent needs.

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

MORE SECURITY TIPS & TECH NOTES

Scams. In our digital world, where we are connected to the world in real-time via our mobile phones, tablets, we are bombarded with the never-ending stream of robo-calls, scam e-mails, and instant messaging activity. That activity demands that we stay informed and aware of all the ways human scammers, and now the AI-enabled scammers, operate. AI is enabling scammers to be even more stealthy and believable in refining their methods.

If you are a member of AARP, then you can read their coverage of scams targeting seniors. And it's worthwhile reading indeed at:

AARP - Scams & Fraud section

Likewise, many financial institutions, like Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Truist, Chase, and First Citizens, just to name a few, have started their own scam warning programs. Check with your financial institution to see what they can offer as advice.

There is a website that deals with the "**Scam of the Day**" topics. It can be found at:

Scamicide with Steve Weisman. Steve's background is as follows:

Steve Weisman is a lawyer, admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He is a college professor at Bentley University in Waltham, MA, where he teaches "White Collar Crime." He was awarded the Gregory H. Adamian Award, Bentley University's highest award for teaching excellence. He is the author of more than ten books including "The Truth About Avoiding Scams" named by Smart Money Magazine as one of the ten best money books of the year. He has been awarded a Certificate of Merit for excellence in legal journalism by the American Bar Association.

The website itself gets a good rating as well. So, you may find it to be an interesting resource as you seek information on recent scams in play. You can sign-up to receive a daily e-mail with a current, or recent scam. The website has a long list of scam descriptions available for reading.

Scams of the Day

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**Hacker: I have all
your passwords**

**Me: OMG thank you,
what are they?**

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

New member applications and renewal applications should 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

***THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE VOTED ON AT
THE BUSINESS MEETING BEFORE THE
INSTALLATION***

**FRA HOME BYLAWS RESOLUTION
FRA LOW COUNTRY HOME, INC.**

Whereas, Article VI, FRA Home Bylaws, provides for the official duties of the various Home Committee Officers and Home Manager; and

Whereas, the FRA Home had a Kitchen Manager years ago to oversee the operations of the FRA Home kitchen but was abolished due to lack of proper credentials and supervisory capabilities; and

Whereas, there is nothing contained in the FRA Home Bylaws that specifically relates to the supervision of the FRA Home kitchen; and

Whereas, the Kitchen Supervisor role stands as the linchpin in maintaining the smooth operation and quality standards of a kitchen, ensuring that every dish served meets the establishment's benchmarks for excellence and safety; and

Whereas, a Kitchen Supervisor would report directly to the FRA Home Manager vice FRA Home Committee within the proper chain of command; and

Whereas, it is apparent that the time has come to hire a qualified kitchen supervisor to oversee the overall day-to-day operations of the FRA Home kitchen; now therefore be it

Resolved, that a new section to Article VI, titled "Kitchen Supervisor" be added as follows:

"Article VI, Section 606. Kitchen Supervisor. The Kitchen Supervisor is NOT an officer of the Home. He/she is responsible to and works for the Home Manager. In addition, he/she shall:

1. Oversee the preparation and cooking of food to ensure quality standards are met.
2. Manage kitchen staff scheduling, including assigning specific tasks and shifts to ensure efficient operation.
3. Implement and enforce health and safety regulations within the kitchen to comply with legal and organizational standards. Ensure compliance with state, federal, and local food handling requirements and standards.
4. Order and manage inventory of food supplies and kitchen equipment ensuring availability while considering costs.
5. Develop and update menus in collaboration with Home Manager, considering customer preferences and seasonal ingredients.
6. Train new kitchen staff in cooking techniques, presentation standards, and kitchen

protocols.

7. Resolve conflicts within kitchen staff to maintain a harmonious environment.

8. Conduct regular maintenance checks on kitchen appliances and equipment to prevent unexpected malfunctions.

9. Maintain the kitchen area under ServSafe guidelines.

10. Exercise leadership skills by coordinating kitchen staff during busy times.

11. Train new employees by procedures. State standards, and ServSafe standards.

12. Executing opening and closing duties including DHEC food/kitchen safety inspections and employee development.

13. Monitor cooking and chill temperatures.

14. Cook food by baking, roasting, broiling, frying, sauté, steaming, and grilling.

15. Assists in the implementation and management of kitchen FRA Home policies and procedures throughout scheduled shift.

16. Completes the duties of a cook when needed, and can perform the duties of all kitchen positions.

17. Ensures products are stored at the correct temperatures and all appliances and equipment are properly cleaned and shutdown after each day the kitchen is open.

18. Participates in the hiring process by conducting interviews and making hiring recommendations to the Home Manager.

19. Be required to obtain ServSafe Food Manager Certification and ServSafe Food Handling certifications for all kitchen staff.

20. Must take prompt, appropriate action to turn dissatisfied customers, including reporting any unresolved disputes to Home Manager for appropriate action.

21. Performs opening, closing, and side work duties as instructed and according to proper guidelines.

22. Keeps workstation and equipment clean, organized, sanitized, and properly stored.

This is to certify that this resolution was proposed at a regular FRA Branch 269 meeting, held on the ___ day of May, 2025, and it was read, debated and adopted by unanimous vote at a subsequent meeting held on the ___ day of _____ 2025, a quorum being present.

Branch President
Branch Secretary

BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—JUNE 2025

Richard Hair	59	Edward Astle	29	Brian Sims	24	Eddie Beasley	8
John Pardo	58	Dwight Bain	26	Don Kopczynski	23	John Thiry	8
James Giodano	50	Randy Bogнар	26	Robert Ladue	23	Robert Brinson	7
Dan Heath Jr.	50	Gary Gander	26	Patrick Dermody	22	William Reed	7
Roy Knight	50	Steven Gearhart	26	Terry Gomez	22	Lee Lepretre	6
Perry Riley	50	Douglas Jordan	26	Paul King	21	William Ragan	6
Ronald Henderson	42	Grady Scott	26	Keith Timmons	21	Charles Hollowood	5
Joseph Dick	40	Robert Sowards	26	William Dunsing	20	Charles Walker	5
Carson Burgess	37	Roger Adams	25	Bobby Beck	20	Debra Bortell	4
Jerry Frohbieter	37	Dwaynne Ashline	25	Mike Sroka	20	James Crump	4
Lester Callahan	36	Ludwig Burkle	25	James Baker	19	William Hayes	4
Lonnie Donahue	36	Joseph Giannetto	25	Steven Edmund Sr	18	Matthew Frazier	2
Maureen Gonzalez	36	Dennis Hazel	25	Larry Knutson	18	James McCutcheon	2
Michael Hanna	36	Howard Miles	25	Julian Lemley	16	Benjamin Money	2
James Kint	36	William Roberts	25	William Maloon	14	Scott Salisbury	2
Edward Mulrey	36	George Roberts Jr.	25	Gregg Schneider	13	Todd Walker	2
Harold Herrington	35	Daniel Ryan	25	Kevin Scott	13	Dave Harvey	1
Gareld Landis	35	Robert Windrow	25	Elmer Feeser	13	Lionel Mackey	1
Martin Tinsley II	35	Dennis Cox	24	Raymond McKinley III	13	Arthur Robinson	1
David Menefee	32	Ken Ealy	24	Jeffrey Wilmoth	13	Arthur Sattler	1
David Aldrich	31	Lee Heitner	24	Michael Mercer	9	Stephen Woodside	1

UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—JUNE 2025

Denise J. McCready	30	Susan M. Pardo	25	Brian Kopczynski	21	Shelagh M. Lammers	12
Carol Bailey	27	Hazel N. Hacker	25	Lori R. Beier	13	Mark Howell	9
Brenda M. Hiers	27	Rosemary A. Clark	21	Tammy L. Robinson	12	Brian T. Murphy	1

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN JUNE 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!!!**

Roger Fincher	1	William Teague	6	Donald Heinle	15	Ralph Bates	26
James Gregory	1	Cacey M. Anderson	7	James Hutton	15	Roy Kingdom	26
Carolyn J. Rose	1	Donald Langdon	8	Maryln L. Mucheck	15	Presilla L. Wilbanks	26
John Thiry	1	Troy R. Perpruner	9	Albert Horne Jr	16	Dan Heath Jr.	27
Sam Pennington	2	Ronald Chambers	11	Phillip M. Smith	16	Charles Humbard	27
Lee Rudbart	2	Steven Harrison	11	Jodi Wright	17	Robert Vehorn	27
Ronald Vanco	2	Orro Kaske	11	David Stevens	18	Lowell Mills	28
Nancy L. Vella	2	Cassity M. Arnold	12	Raymond Cotton	19	James Nelson	28
Richard Herndon	3	Feliz Cabanting	12	Kevin Henry	19	Dennis Ward	28
William Jenkins	3	Tommy Hellems	12	Robert Kirtley	19	Angela S. Clark	29
Willie Thompson Jr.	3	Donald Moseng	12	Robert D. Reynolds	19	John Flynn	29
Jacob S. Becker	4	Don Mucheck	12	Dana Disinger	22	Arthur Hance III	29
Marvin Brigman	5	Guy Travaglio	12	Sandra M. Houle	22	Michael Quigley	29
Gary Clinefelter	5	Edward Peters	14	Michael Andrews	23	Charles Rein	29
Matthew Douty	5	Robert Simmang	14	Michael Goad	23	Gloria I. Bolyn	30
Judy Duncan	5	Alfred Bauer	15	Ron Morgan	24	Arthur Brown	30
Shelagh M. Lammers	5	Cynthia Hannah	15	Wendy Holman	26	John Sloane	30
James Crump	6						

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 Tim Bailey
PRPSE Fred Bolz Larry Pepper
Ron Lamon Tom Lawson
Glenn Little Ken Wallace
Bobbie Sutton Johnny Brown
David Mattingly 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: Donald Barton

AFRA UNIT 269

UNIT OFFICERS

President: NFS Pat Suckow
Vice President: Debbie Breeze
Secretary: Amy Osborne
Treasurer: PRPSE Gale Nathan
Jr. Past President: Trish Chilton

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRPSE Gail Bolz Kathy Sorenson
Sue Peters Dee Wallace
Ann Griffith Anne Barton
Linda Nichols

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE

CHAIRS

Amer/Patriotism: Linda Nichols
Chaplain: Theresa Milligan
Hospital: Theresa Milligan
Membership: Debbie Breeze
Parliamentarian: PRPSE Gail Bolz
Publicity: Debie Breeze
Sergeant-at-Arms: Kathy Sorenson
Ship's Store: Trish Chilton
Unit Activities: All Members
VAVS: Theresa Milligan
Welfare/Rehab: Sue Peters
Youth Activities: Anne Barton

LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC

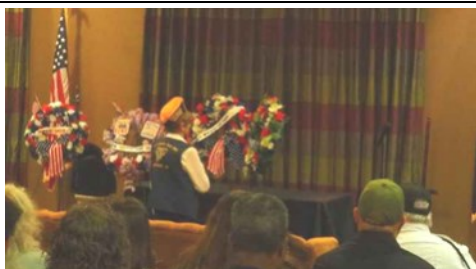
99 Wisteria Road,
Goose Creek SC 29445
843-569-2692

Frabranh269@comcast.net

Home Chairman: PNC Laurie Bailey
Admin Secretary: Sarah Ihme
Financial Secretary: 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



**2025 May 24th VFW
Memorial Day Service**



**2025 May 26th FRA
Ceremony & Indoor Picnic**



**2025 May 26th
FRA Flags on Graves**



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

JUNE 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Free Pool	2	3	4	5 1800 SUBVETS BOD	6 D-DAY 1944 1730 NNPTC CPOA	7 1800 Branch/Aux Dinner 1900 Branch/Aux Installation
8 Free Pool 1230 Bunko	9	10	11	12 1900 SUBVETS Mtg	13	14 FLAG DAY 1000 DAV Mtg 1800 EVENT
15 Free Pool FATHER'S DAY	16 1800 Home Committee	17 1130 Unit Lunch Gilligan's Goose Creek NO UNIT MEETING	18 1800-2000 Radio Club	19 NO BRANCH MEETINGS	20	21 0900-1100 MILFRAT 1500 Wedding
22 Free Pool	23 1730 VVA Mtg	24	25	26 1900 MCL	27	28 FRA GOLF TOURNAMENT
29 Free Pool	30					

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 Friday nights – 1930 – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

JULY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 1800 SUBVETS BOD	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 1100-1400 FRA Indoor Picnic	5
6 Free Pool	7	8	9	10 1900 SUBVETS Mtg	11	12 NO DAV MTG
13 Free Pool 1200 Memorial Service	14 1300 Home Committee	15 1130 Unit Lunch 1800 Unit Mtg	16 1800-2000 Radio Club	17 1800 Branch BOD 1900 Branch Mtg	18	19
20 Free Pool 1630 Baby Shower	21	22	23	24 1900 MCL	25	26
27 Free Pool	28 1730 VVA Mtg	29	30	31		

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 BOD MEETING
MAY 15, 2025**

Shipmate President Ken Hutchinson called the regular Low Country Branch 269 meeting to order at 1800, Thursday, May 15, 2025, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

Board Members present were:

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

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

Legislative Service and VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton
Nothing to report.

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

Youth Activities: Don Barton
Nothing to report.

Public Relations: John Tharp

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: Don Barton
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Home Committee Report: Ken Wallace
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Second round nominations and elections will be held this month.

The installation is tentatively scheduled for June 7th. The alternate date is our usual meeting date, June 19th. The menu will be lasagna, salad, and garlic bread. Tickets are \$5, and the branch will cover the remaining cost. PNP Don Mucheck moved that this be approved. Motion was seconded by PNC Laurie Bailey and carried by a unanimous vote.

We hold a mid-year meeting each February to grade regional essays. PNC Laurie Bailey motions that we host the mid-year meeting in February next year. Motion was seconded by S/M Sarah Ihme and carried by a unanimous vote.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Our Memorial Day events will begin on Saturday, May 24th. We will meet with the VFW at McAlister-Smith Funeral Home in Goose Creek to place wreaths. On Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, we will gather at Plantation Memorial Gardens at 0800 to place flags on veterans' graves. We will return to the FRA Home for a ceremony at 1030. Our guest speaker will be Warrant Officer Bob McPherson, and the ceremony will be followed by an indoor picnic. At 1600, members will return to collect the flags.

Two volunteers were needed to serve as flag bearers and present the colors for the Memorial Day ceremony at the Home. S/M Sarah Ihme and S/M Steve Koch volunteered for this duty. PNP Don Mucheck and S/M George White volunteered to post the wreaths.

A proposal to amend the Home Bylaws needs to be submitted, as there is a change that must be incorporated. This proposal must be recognized in time to be published in the newsletter before the June meeting. Although the June meeting includes the installation of officers, regular business must still be conducted. Therefore, the proposed bylaw changes will be addressed first during the installation night, followed by any remaining business, and then the installation ceremony will proceed. This ensures the changes are properly handled and in place.

Committee reports are due at the end of June.

We have asked about hosting the hospitality room for the Southeast Region Convention, but have not received confirmation yet.

S/M Bobbi Sutton motioned to adjourn. This was seconded by S/M Tim Bailey and carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1821.

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
MEETING OF MAY 15, 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Shipmate President Ken Hutchison called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 1900, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

Visitors: The Ladies Auxiliary was present.

Shipmates Initiated: None

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

Communications: We received a letter of appreciation from the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center for the Unit for their donation of items to support the NCC baby shower and 20 prepaid \$10 Visa gift cards.

Treasurer's Report:

The report for the period of March 28 – April 27, 2025 is as follows:

General Checking: \$6,677.69	Savings Account: \$5,187.74
Certificate of Deposit: \$11,838.30	Convention Checking: \$20.03
Total: \$23,723.76	

All bills received to date have been paid.

Continuous Membership:

May 2025

John Casner, Jr. – 70 Years
Phillip Smith – 55 Years
Robert Shober – 45 Years
Thomas Scott – 40 Years
Merle Melling – 35 Years
Santos Riduca – 30 Years

Jerry Espiritu – 25 Years
James Harrison – 25 Years
Paul Langan – 25 Years
Keith Laster – 25 Years
Mark Hunter – 15 Years

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

Dates in History May/June

15 May – Peace Officers Memorial Day
17 May – Armed Forces Day
26 May – Memorial Day
06 June – D-Day (1944)
14 June – Flag Day
15 June – Father's Day

17 June – U.S. Navy Hospital Corps Established (1898)
19 June – Juneteenth
21 June – First Day of Summer
25 June – North Korea Invades South Korea (1950)

The essay contest for next year will be posted on the FRA national website. Information will be posted on the front table and will be sent to the schools for the upcoming essay contest.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz

The FRA Home Bylaws resolution was read. This will be voted on during the installation.

Legislative Service & VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

NewsBytes have been posted. VA information will be in our June newsletter.

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

Kit Sparger has cancer in her bones, liver, and lungs. We need to keep her in our prayers. John Tharp had a heart cath. Continue praying for everyone who was on the list last month.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 739

New Join/Reinstated: David Chapman, Thomas Ishee, Donald Wright, Fay Wright

Past Due: Jennifer Beilstein, Richard Davies, Terrie Ehlich, Nathan Gottsch, John Hills, Robert Hudspeth, Raymond Jaekle, Ronald Laqua, Walter Mabe, Robert Mixon, Ron Morgan, Cody Schaefer, Robert Simmang, David Southall, Samuel Williams

Ready to Renew: William Ambler, Bobby Beck, Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Ludwig Burkle, Michael Delich, Michael Dellenbach, Joseph Dick, Elmer Feeser, Matthew Frazier, Richard Glass, Cynthia Hannah, William Hayes, Harold Herrington, Charles Hollowood, David Horton, Stephen Jeffery, Douglas Jordan, Lonnie Kenney, Larry Knutson, Howard Luper, Edward Mulrey, John Pontieri, William Ragan, William Reed, Robert Richardson, Santos Riduca, Arthur Robinson, Scott Salisbury, Joseph Schepisi, Gregg Schneider, Thomas Scott, Brian Sims, Cecil Skipworth, Robert Sowards, Michael Sparks, Timothy Thrower, Martin Tinsley II, Jeffrey Wilmoth, Brad Wonderliing

Suspended: Ralph Bates, Thomas Blalock, Felix Cabanting, Shannon Cason, Rick Collins, Stuart Erlandson, Kevin Henry, Robert Isaman, William Jenkins, Heather McGuire, Nathaniel Nelson, Donald Rickert, Kevin Sedgley, Franklin Seitz, Martin Sessler, Ernest Smith, Daniel Speight

Active Unit Members: 190

Youth Activities: Don Barton

Nothing to report.

Public Relations: John Tharp

Submitted an article to the Summerville Journal and Berkeley Independent.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

Get your 50/50 and steak dinner tickets.

Golf: Larry Pepper

The next golf tournament will be on June 28th, 0800 tee time.

Budget and Finance: Don Barton

The audit committee will meet June 3rd at 1300 at the Home for the final audit for this year.

Home Committee Report: Ken Wallace

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch and R. Sutton on 09 May 2025 as follows: Checking account balance \$21,306.69, Savings account \$10,456.37, and Credit Card account available balance \$15,589.11; there is \$1,539.00 pending deposits. Total Cash on hand is \$59,391.17.

Financial Statement for March 2025 reports Net Profit for the month is \$18,830.84, Year to Date is \$17,485.64. Financial Statement for April 2025 reports Net Profit for the month is \$2,703.47, Year to Date is \$20,189.11.

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

S/M Pepper reports our water heater has been replaced.

New kitchen refrigerator/freezer has been purchased and installed.

Kentucky Derby Party on May 3rd was well attended and enjoyed by all.

SubVets are hosting a Fish Fry at the Home on May 24th, 1200 – 1700. Price is \$17 per person; Arkansas Blue Fish (all white meat), Hush Puppies, Coleslaw, French Fries, Salad, and Rolls.

Next Golf Tournament will be on June 28th, followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

Membership and Security: Headquarters reported that we have 739 active Branch members as of 07 May including 4 members (New/Reinstated). There are 190 active Unit members.

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, June 16th at 1800, One final reminder, if you bring a Non-Member to Home, please remember to sign them into the Guest Log.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Final nominations and election of officers, board of directors, and home committee were conducted. The results are as follows:

President – Don Barton

Vice President – Steve Koch

Secretary – Sarah Ihme

Treasurer – PNP Don Mucheck

Board of Directors – PNC Laurie Bailey, PRPSE Fred Bolz, Tim Bailey, Larry Pepper, Ron Lamon, John Tharp, Tom Lawson, Glenn Little, Ken Wallace, Bobbi Sutton, Johnny Brown, David Mattingly

Recess between elections.

Home Committee

Chairman – PNC Laurie Bailey

Admin Secretary – Sarah Ihme

Financial Secretary – PNP Don Mucheck

Directors: Kim Vandiver, Sue Peters, John Tharp, Amy Osborne, Dee Wallace, Ken Wallace, Tim Bailey, Ken Hutchinson

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Unit Report: Trish Chilton

Our meeting was conducted on Tuesday, 13 May. Our Bylaws and Standing Rules were passed to the Branch General Assembly and ratified. Final nominations and voting for next year's officers were completed with the following results:

President	NFS Pat Suckow
Vice President	Debbie Breeze
Secretary	Amy Osborne
Treasurer	Gale Nathan

Board of Directors: Sue Peters, Dee Wallace, Ann Griffith, Linda Nichols, Kathy Sorenson, and Gail Bolz. Anne Barton supports the unit in every way she can and has been named as an honorary board member.

The installation of officers in June will be our meeting for the month. The next Ladies luncheon will be June 17th at Gilligan's in Goose Creek. The meeting in July will be on the 15th.

There being no further business to come before the General Assembly, the President announced that the meeting would adjourn with all shipmates standing and bowing their heads for one minute in silent tribute to our departed shipmates.

Meeting adjourned at 2028.

May 2025 Home Committee Input

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Ken Wallace, Home Committee Chairman.