

59th Annual State Enlisted Conference
Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, SD
April 20-21, 2018

The State Conference was called to order at 1230 hours. The Colors were posted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Josh Wermers. The invocation and memorial service was given by Chaplain Jared Dupont. President Wermers gave welcoming remarks and thanked the distinguished guests for being in attendance at this year's conference.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Representative Jesse Ewing spoke on behalf of Senator John Thune in his absence. He thanked the body for the invitation and for their service. He said we need to ensure that our military members and Veterans receive the benefits and care they deserve. In February Congress took an important step to help rebuild our military. It authorized additional defense funding for fiscal 2018 and 2019. Congress also recently passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 which included one of the largest military pay increases in over a decade.

(Ret) BG Marlette addressed the body on behalf of Senator Mike Rounds. He showed a quick video from Senator Rounds. Senator Rounds puts a lot of focus on Veterans and Benefits. His office and representatives handle over 800-900 cases a year and over half of them are Veteran/Military cases. One bill that he just signed recently was the MOMS Act which ensures female military members creditable service and points for time spent on maternity leave.

Deadwood City Mayor, Chuck Tuberville addressed the body and thanked everyone for coming to Deadwood and for choosing this location to host our conference. He encouraged everyone to visit some of the local sites and museums.

President Wermers asked Representative Tim Goodwin to address the body and help explain the process on how a bill gets introduced and passed. Representative Goodwin recently introduced a bill that if you are 18 years old and in the military, then you are adult enough to have an adult beverage. Your military ID card would be your verification if you're not old enough on your civilian driver's license. When you get ready to introduce a bill you look for co-sponsors to support your idea. Tried getting the Legion and VFW to support his bill.

Representative Kristi Noem addressed the body and thanked everyone for the invitation to speak and for everything that our military members do for this country. She mentioned that April is the month of the military child and how important it is to recognize the sacrifices our families make. One update at the federal level: 2.4% increase for military pay. She was recently asked by MG Reisch to sign on to a bill that will support dual status technicians the opportunity to participate in the TRS program. DoD approved a budget for Joe Foss Field and the AASF in Rapid City. There is also a concern with the Military Funeral Honors program and whether or not there is enough support (88 families did not get military funeral honors). Another concern brought to her attention is the potential for a government shutdown. Working hard to avoid pay delays in light of a shutdown. Her State Congressional representatives are here to support us and be our advocates. The question was asked about the dual technician and TRS; and this bill will be presented soon. Overall it should be a cost savings aspect to the government. She is pushing to have it done by Memorial Day. Bruce Anderson asked the question about the President's meeting with North Korea, and how much information she can and cannot share with the body. Representative Noem is quite familiar with the situation, but cannot give out a lot of feedback. She has discussed things quite extensively with President Trump and expressed her concerns. President Wermers asked Kristi Noem if she gets elected governor would she support our proposed resolution for 100% tuition assistance. She would work closely with us to facilitate that. One of her biggest goals is reforming our Welfare Programs. Ben Lamp asked what her stance is on using the guard in an expanded role for our border protection. Applauds President Trump for

using the guard because the guard does a great job. Governor's priority should be taking care of its men and women serving in the National Guard and when we can support our National Security we should do that.

State Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary (Ret) CSM Larry Zimmerman addressed the body. He touched base on Education benefits for Soldiers that have deployed or spent time on Active Duty. Their time can count towards tuition assistance after they use their Federal benefits. He also mentioned bonuses for AGRs; pre 90/91 and post 01. Secretary Zimmerman introduced Erin Bultje who was selected to serve as the executive director of South Dakota Joining Forces. SD Joining Forces will not only explore the unique mental and behavioral health needs of veterans and families, but strive to improve access to healthcare, education, and housing. They have a brand new website at <http://sdjf.sd.gov/>. It's essentially a database of resources. Some of the various operations: recognize Korean War Veterans, recognize our Vietnam Veterans, Operation Last Chance – coins to each and every WWII veteran in the State. There is a resource for military members and their families. Use the website to find those resources. Recently passed Senate Bill 91 for the East River Cemetery which will be similar to Black Hills National Cemetery.

Auxiliary President, Kayleen Meyers spoke to the body about membership and the scholarships that are offered by the auxiliary. For the past few years the auxiliary has offered two, \$1000 scholarships to those that apply and are eligible. First recipient was Sidney Novak and the second winner was Nolan Sampson. Auxiliary is hosting a silent auction throughout the conference and all proceeds will go towards the scholarship funds. They make various donations to other groups throughout the year. The SDNGEA presented the Auxiliary with a check for \$300.

Conference Chairmen, Eric Kinslow and Chad Harley gave a brief overview on the agenda and the activities scheduled for the conference.

President Josh Wermers called the SDNGEA 1st Business Session to order at 1430 on Friday, 20 April 2018.

ROLL

Roll Call was taken by Rorie Gregor and the following members were present: Josh Wermers, Andy Meyers, Nate Hedin, Nancy Ausland, Erin Blom, Kayleigh Cihak, Chris Portice, Rick Vandenhoeck proxy for Jennifer Siebenahler, Charles Fincher, John Leffring, Chad Brooks, Chad Hartley, Joshua Schaefer, Shelley Reeder proxy for Louie Clement, Willis Hangman, Rob Cole proxy for Joshua Guthmiller, Derek Jaeger proxy for Briana Grage, Anna Simons, David Frock, and Robert Aiken. Enough were present for a quorum.

A motion was made by Billy Heisinger that the President could deviate from the agenda as needed and Shelley Reeder seconded the motion.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 58th Annual State Conference in Pierre, SD were presented. Jerry Eisenbraun made a motion to receive the minutes as presented and seconded by Nate Gomez. Motion carried.

EANGUS update – Video from Frank Yoakum and remarks from EANGUS Vice President Brad Howell. He thanked the body for allowing him to speak and noted that South Dakota is the strongest Enlisted Association in the Nation. He recognized Bruce Anderson for everything he's done at the National level. He emphasized how important our membership is, and that SD ranks the highest in the nation. He encouraged the body to get to know our Jr Enlisted representatives which are Anna Simons for the Army and Briana Grage for the Air. Right now the number one priority is getting TRS for dual status technicians. The second highest priority is the 12304B. It allows call up of both guardsmen and reservists for pre-planned operations in support of a combatant commander, typically overseas. He noted that the National

office has moved and is now co-located with NGAUS. This year is an elections year at the National level. Discussed the Grey area after retirement in regards to Tricare.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area V Report - President Wermers invited our Area 5 directors to speak: Dean Kennebeck and Chuck Kasin. They thanked the body for inviting them to the conference and reminded them about the Area V Caucus in May.

The Life Insurance Report was presented by Dave Burr, and he runs the NG State Sponsorship Program. There are currently 357 members insured. We had an increase of 8 policies last year, but lost 32. All military members are automatically covered for \$1000. He wants to get into the units to better inform our military members. There were brochures available with additional information. The SSLI pays out within 24 hours. This benefit is available after you get out of the military up to the age of 65. Based on his knowledge and what he's done the AFBA is the best program for us and it will benefit both the Enlisted and Officer Association. Motion to accept made by Gordy Kotab. Report will be filed as presented.

Museum Report – Sonja Johnson was not available to present, but we did watch a video presentation on the history of the SD guard.

Treasurers Report was presented by Erin Blom. As of April 17, 2018 we have the following balances in our accounts: Wells Fargo Checking - \$8,721.09, Wells Fargo Savings - \$6,770.62, Wells Fargo CD - \$31,699.79, Dakota Bank CD - \$22,499.39, Air Guard FCU CD \$5,040.15. The Air Guard FCU CD was withdrawn and put into the checking account. Erin has drafted a form for making deposits for the membership committee. It has more detailed information on each membership deposit. Erin Blom made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Don List seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget Committee Report was presented by Erin Blom. She meet with the President to discuss the current budget and they put together a plan. The current profits and losses were available for review on the tables. Erin Blom made a motion to accept as presented. Nate Gomez inquired about the -\$11,000 deficit. This is a proposed budget right now because we don't know what our revenue will be from this year's membership drive. File as presented.

Audit Committee Report was presented by Chad Hartley. The committee audited the association's account, reviewed bank statements and supporting documentation. No audit was done on the 2016 accounts because it's under review due to a computer crash. The committee reviewed May 2017 thru mid-April 2018. They discovered a number of expense vouchers that were missing receipts such as hotels and National Conference fees and registration. The Treasurer annotated the missing receipts. All dollar amounts matched bank statements and Quick Books. Copy of the report will be filed with the minutes. Move for its acceptance. Pat Jones is working on rebuilding 2016 in Quick Books, and we should have answers by the end of May. File report as presented.

Scholarship Report was presented by Nathan Hedin. There were 28 applications this year made up of Soldiers, Airmen, and dependents. The board was made up of three professionals from within the community. One professional educator, one senior enlisted member, and the incoming Military Science Professor at SDSU. Applications were reviewed based on completion of packet, letters of recommendation, grade point average and ACT scores. The two MG Duane L. "Duke" Corning Memorial Scholarships for \$1000 each go to: Grace Dellman and Sydney Novak. The USAA scholarship for \$1000 goes to Tucker Bigge. The CW2 Darren R. Mallow Memorial Scholarship goes to Kayla Jacobson. Thank you to all of this year's applicants and please apply again next year if you are eligible. Let's applaud the Air Guard for pushing the scholarship program. Prior to next year's application deadline the application form will be made into a fillable PDF document to make it easier to apply. Move for its acceptance. File as presented.

Position Evaluation Committee Report was presented by Nathan Hedin. The following changes are recommended: Additions to Current positions – Executive Director: 8. Position has no voting strength on the Executive Council. First Vice: 8. Shall maintain the Executive Council Roster and the Committee Assignment Roster. Secretary: 6. Position has no voting strength on the Executive Council. State Conference Liaison: 6. Shall maintain and update as necessary the State Conference SOP. 7. Shall manage and maintain the Corporate Sponsorship Program. 8. Position has no voting strength on the Executive Council. Historian: on the Executive Council to item 2. Add to ALL elected position descriptions per the 19 April 2014 policy change: shall be responsible for selling 1 advertisement for the ECHO annually. Add a position description for Jr Enlisted Representative to include: 1. Shall attend all Council Meetings or when unable to attend will send a representative. 2. Shall provide feedback from the members represented to the Executive Council. 3. Shall read and study the Constitution and By Laws of this Association. 4. Shall forward a letter of appointment to the Executive Director when new Bn/Squadron representatives are assigned. Move for its acceptance. File as presented.

Nominations Preliminary Report was conducted by Nancy Ausland. President Josh Wermers, 1st Vice Nate Hedin, Area 1 Kayleigh Cihak, Area 4 Will Hangman, Area 5 Chris Portice. Just a reminder you can nominate from the floor. Submit names to Nancy.

Proxy Letters (Last Call) – Will Hangman – Informational purposes only.

State Conference Sponsorship Report was presented by Bruce Anderson. The Sponsorship Program Committee solicits members who have never attended a state conference. Intent is to give members a chance to see how and why we conduct our business. The requirements for selection include: never have attended a state conference, E7 and below, current paid association member, provide an after action article for the ECHO. Recognized the following state sponsorship attendees: Abby Pierce, Charlotte Ekern, Jeremy McCully, Frank Gutierrez, Beau Bartscher, Ryan Angelhofer, and Rachael French. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Investment Committee Report was presented by Bruce Anderson. The committee closed the CD in the Air Guard FCU on 11 April 2018 and had a check cut in the amount of \$5053.34. This ends our past affiliation with both the Army and Air Guard FCU's. Wells Fargo now holds all of our funds with the exception of our CD at Dakota Bank, Watertown, SD. Committee recommends rolling over our existing CD's into another 12 month contract. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Report was presented by Bruce Anderson. Other than the suggested changes made by Nate Hedin, there are no significant changes at this time. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Legislative Committee Report was presented by Don List. Senate and House Bills regarding Military and Veterans Affairs issues that were signed by the Governor include: Members of the National Guard ordered to active duty by the Governor or the President have all protections afforded to persons serving on federal active duty. Authorize Department of Veterans Affairs to provide the design, construction, and equipping of a state veterans cemetery in Minnehaha County. Authorize construction of a NG Readiness Center at the AASF in Rapid City. An Act to provide a special motor vehicle license plate for certain women veterans. Driver's license issued to a member of the armed forces and their dependents are located with the service member who is outside the state, is extended beyond the expiration date either 90 days after discharge or 90 days after service member returns to the state. A formal application to Congress to change the medical enrollment criteria for the Veterans Health Administration to include all veterans who served in WWII and Korea. There was an article regarding Arlington National Cemetery and how it is projected to run out of space in two decades unless new land is obtained. Copy of this report will be filed with the minutes. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Time and Place Report presented by Shelley Reeder. The 2019 Conference is co-located with the Officers and will be held in Sioux Falls from 25-27 April. The 196th MEB will host the conference, and Nate Gomez has volunteered to be the Enlisted Chairman. 2020 Conference will be held in Huron and Dale Greenfield is Chairman. It was decided that the 2021 Conference would be held in Rapid City in conjunction with the National Conference to be held in Rapid City that year as well. Josh Wermers will be Chairman. 2022 is co-located again in Rapid City with the Officers. Committee is recommending a change that the co-located conferences be held in the same community, but at separate venues. Need to check the By Laws on this recommendation. Chamberlain or Mitchell is the recommendation for 2023. Copy of the report will be filed with the minutes of this meeting. Motion for acceptance and file as presented.

Ways & Means Committee Report presented by Kayleigh Cihak. Some of the current revenue streams include: Corporate Sponsors, Insurance Rebates, Ads for the ECHO, and last but not least our Membership Drive. Copy of the report will be filed with the minutes. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Jr. Enlisted Army Report presented by Anna Simons. Both the Army and Air meet together. Copy of the report will be filed with the minutes. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Publications Committee Report was presented by Sarah Callies. The summer deadline for submissions to the ECHO is 15 May, and it is projected to be sent out by 1 June. The committee discussed advertising, distribution, and the Facebook page. Encourage people to use the ECHO to spread awareness about our association. Copy of this report will be filed with the minutes. Motion for its acceptance and file as presented.

Awards Presentation was given by 1st Vice Andy Meyers, and presented by CSM Hoekman and President Wermers. The Air National Guard award recipients included: Airman of the Year - SRA Katie French, NCO of the Year - TSgt Tyler Leisinger, Senior NCO of the Year - SMSgt Jonathan Runner, and First Sergeant of the Year - Duane Vandevendel. The Army National Guard award recipients were: SPC Bailey Rupp – Soldier of the Year, and SGT Cory Staab – NCO of the Year. Two nominations for the Standing Proud Awards. The first one was the Outstanding Service Award and it went to SSG Austin Pierce. The second one was the Meritorious Service Award and it went to SFC Will Hangman. Move for acceptance and file as presented.

Andy Meyers made a motion to recess until tomorrow and Dallas Vallery seconded the motion. Business session was adjourned at 1645 on Friday, 20 April 2018 by President Wermers.

Business session was re-convened and called to order at 0800 on Saturday, 21 April 2018 by President Wermers.

Resolutions Preliminary Report was given by Anna Simons. There are 9 new resolutions and we are reaffirming 3 previous resolutions. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Membership Committee Report was presented by Will Hangman. As of this report, paid membership at all levels is 2423 members which is down 199 from last year. Based on required enlisted strength and a goal of 100 paid retirees, the SDNGEA hit 90% of its membership goal which is a drop of 7% from last year. 8 units (1 Air and 7 Army) qualified for the 100% membership level and certificates were prepared and presented. Copy of this report will be filed with the minutes. Move for its acceptance and file as presented. President Wermers presented certificates to those units that achieved 100% membership.

Credentials Committee Report was given by Will Hangman. Votes were allotted per paid membership strength and proxy per written procedure. Per the allotments, the total established voting for this conference

was 249 votes, with 26 of those votes residing within the council and the remaining amongst the membership of the units. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Young Heroes Committee Report was given by Cathy Anderson. There was not a committee meeting for the Young Heroes Award program, but rather a historical report. The program started in the early 1990's. In the past, the Make-A-Wish foundation provided most of the Hero nominations. The presentations have taken place in a variety of settings ranging from the airport, to school functions, doctor's offices and military installations. This is a very humbling and life-altering experience and it is encouraged to help revitalize this program. Copy of this report will be filed with the minutes. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Black Hills Veteran Honor March & Marathon was presented by Ben Lamp. The committee discussed last year's event: 285 total registered, 137 full marchers, 126 mini marchers, 22 marathoners, 18 teams, 115 veterans, and over 100 volunteers. This year's event will be held on 15 September 2018. Copy of this report will be filed with the minutes. Move for its acceptance and file as presented. The question was asked if there was going to be a relay event this year. We are looking at consolidating some of the categories. There were 2 trial categories last year that will be added to the registration: 110 mile heavy and a 5 person relay. No further discussion on the report. Ben Lamp asked for some of the committee members to explain their duties in order to get more support. Some of the Veteran Organizations that the BH Veterans March donates to include: Big Paws, Hospice, BH National Cemetery, and the Youth Camp.

Jr. Enlisted Air Report presented by Derek Jaeger. The Air Jr Enlisted and Rising Six have been promoting and informing their members of the importance of the Enlisted Association. Some of the various events that they participated in include: paint the town, a Flag Day ceremony, and professional development opportunities. Copy of this report will be filed with the minutes. Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Enlisted Senior Leader Address – CSM James Hoekman – On behalf of MG Reisch, thank you for your service, hard work, and dedication. SD Army & Air are the best of the best because we focus on Readiness and command emphasis. Encouraged everyone to read the NSS. 3 focuses: lethal fighting force, build and strengthen, and improve partnerships. Army Guard is working towards being an Operational force and not just a Strategic force. The Guard & Reserve make up a huge part of the overall military force. New Asst Adj General Thomas Croymans and COL Michels will take over as Land. Deployments are not going to slow down because we are an integral part of the military. A memorial is being built on Camp Rapid in honor/memory of SD Soldiers that have given the ultimate sacrifice. #1 Priority is taking care of Soldiers and Families.

Presentation of 20 Year Certificates and Pins with the SEL – CSM Hoekman and President Josh Wermers presented the 20 year certificates.

President's Report – Josh Wermers (Video) – Move for its acceptance and file as presented.

Resolutions Voting – Anna Simons - Resolution#1: Concurrent receipt of Federal TA and MGIB. Motion by Anna Simons, 2nd by Nate Hedin. Resolution#2: Allow bonus incentives for all NG service members. Currently no bonuses offered for 13 years or more or E7 and above. Motion by Anna Simons, 2nd Chad Hartley. Resolution#3: Continued contribution to TSP after expiration of service obligation. Motion by Anna Simons, 2nd by Theron. Resolution#4: Increase SD State Tuition Assistance to 100%. Motion by Anna Simons, 2nd by Chad Brooks. Skip #5 for now. Resolution#6: Allow NG Airmen to receive education benefits comparable to NG Soldiers. Motion by Anna Simons, 2nd by John Leffring. Resolution#7: Dual-Status Technician Maternity & Paternity leave. Motion by Anna Simons, 2nd by Derek Jaeger. Resolution#8: Mothers of military service leave act. Motion by Anna Simons, 2nd motion by Bob Aiken. Resolution#9 SDBOR policy No 5:5:1. Motion by Anna Simons, 2nd by Gordy Kotab. Reaffirmation of Past Resolutions – motion made by Anna Simons, 2nd by Jim Blackwell. 2016-01 – Automatic re-enrollment

in TRS and United Concordia after AD time. It was suggested to make the dental generic. Ben Lamp made a motion on 2016-01 to say current dental. 2nd by Jerry Eisenbraun. Resolution#5: Appreciation of the hosts of the 59th Annual State Conference. 2nd by Ben Lamp.

Nominations Report given by Nancy Ausland. Reminder that you can nominate from the floor. Nominations are as follows: President – Josh Wermers, 1st Vice – Andy Meyers and Nate Hedin, 2nd Vice – None, Treasurer – Erin Blom, Area 1 – Kayleigh Cihak, Area 2 – none, Area 3 – none, Area 4 – Will Hangman, Area 5 – Chris Portice. Move for its acceptance.

Elected Positions:

President: Josh Wermers – ran unopposed and motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote was made by Shelley Reeder and seconded by Andy Meyers.

First Vice: Andy Meyers – won by vote

Second Vice: Josh Wermers nominated Nate Hedin, and Chris Portice made a motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote and seconded by Nate Gomez

Treasurer: Erin Blom – ran unopposed and motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote was made by Nate Hedin, seconded by Nate Gomez

Area 1 Committee Member at Large: Kayleigh Cihak – ran unopposed and motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote was made by Jerry Eisenbraun motion, seconded by Bob Aiken

Area 2 Committee Member at Large: No nominations

Area 3 Committee Member at Large: No nominations

Area 4 Committee Member at Large: Will Hangman – ran unopposed and motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote was made by Chris Portice, seconded by Nate Gomez

Area 5 Committee Member at Large: Chris Portice – ran unopposed and motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote was made by Nate Gomez, seconded by Nate Hedin

2018 State Conference Report was given by Shelley Reeder. A big thank you to the staff and to everyone that attended this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Erin Blom/Treasurer – Discussed the budget deficit. Every year the Enlisted Association makes a donation to the Hospice Program at Ft Meade and to Black Hills National Cemetery. We passed the hat amongst all of the attendees and raised \$750. Black Hills Veterans March donated \$1000 to the Youth Camp Program and the Officer Association donated the remaining \$9000.

Discussed changing the Enlisted Membership dues to a flat rate for everyone. Bruce Anderson made a call for the question for no more discussion on the budget. Motion carried. Erin Blom made a motion to go to a flat rate of \$20, seconded by Nate Gomez. Further discussed when would be a good start date. Also discussed automatic renewal and how it will affect certain individuals. Motion is to go to a flat rate of \$20 starting 1 August 18. Erin Blom asked for a roll call vote. Unanimous vote NO. Nate Hedin made a motion for a flat rate of \$25 starting 1 May 2019, seconded by Jim Blackwell. This is a proposed change. Motion denied.

Installation of Officers – Nancy Ausland – All elected and appointed positions.

ADJOURNMENT of the 59th Annual Conference

With nothing further to discuss, the Colors were retired and the meeting was adjourned at 1150 hours.