

Ramkota, Pierre, SD
February 7, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 1400 hours. Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Josh Wermers. Nathan Hedin made a motion to deviate from the agenda and Chad Hartley seconded the motion.

State Command Sergeant Major James Hoekman came to speak to the Enlisted Council. He mentioned that 2019 is going to be the year of changes for the SD National Guard. There are a couple of units divesting and a couple of units getting stood up. The guard will actually be gaining about 100 new slots with these changes. With these changes some units will be re-stationing. CSM Hoekman also mentioned that our whole senior leader staff will be changing this year due to several retirements to include the TAG, ATAG, and SEL. In 2021 the ACFT will be implemented. Big Army and NGB will provide all of the equipment for us and there will be plenty of train up time for everyone. There are 6 states testing out the ACFT and Indiana has been focusing on Soldiers that normally score between 200-210. Given enough train up time, Soldiers should and will be able to pass the new fitness test. The new fitness test will focus on a Soldier's capability to deploy. Currently there are no alternate events for Soldiers that are on a permanent profile. The SD Army National Guard has started a new mentorship program and you can find more information about it on the Intranet site.

Chief Master Sergeant Zona Hornstra also spoke to the body and mentioned a few staff changes at the Fighter Wing. Air Guard recently got a new Vice Commander who started 1 February 2019. The Fighter Wing Commander will be leaving this summer along with SCCMsgt Gacke. Changes are in the works for the Air Force fitness requirements. Looking for certain AFSC's to do a tier 2 or different type of functioning training that will include EOD specialists, fire, and security forces. Everyone else will fall into a tier 1. They are going to be looking at being more dependent on a person's score. Enlisted Performance reviews aren't going away. Looking at updating and reviewing the process. There was also some talk about the Air Force looking at Warrant Officers. On the legislative side there is still a big push for Federal Tuition and Tricare Reserve Select for all Soldiers to include Federal Technicians.

ROLL

Roll was taken and the following members were present: Josh Wermers, Nate Hedin, Ben Lamp proxy for Nancy Ausland, Bruce Anderson proxy for Erin Blom, Rorie Gregor proxy for Kayleigh Cihak, Tabitha Carr proxy for Shane Wilkinson, Hornstra proxy for Chris Portice, Rick Vandenhoeck, Charles Fincher, Jeremy Eccleston, Chad Hartley, Amanda Tollard proxy for Joshua Schaefer, Dalene Tobin, Courtney Tyrell proxy for Louie Clement, Sam Schaefer, Derek Jaeger proxy for Briana Grage, and David Frock. Enough were present for a quorum.

MINUTES

The minutes from the Executive Council Meeting at Cadillac Jacks in Deadwood, SD were presented. Ben Lamp made a motion to accept the minutes as printed from the last meeting and it was seconded by Nate Hedin. Motion carried.

TREASURES REPORT

The treasurer's report was presented by President Josh Wermers. As of this report, Wells Fargo was having technical difficulties so amounts were approximations. Wells Fargo Checking is about \$36,000; Wells Fargo Savings is about \$500; Wells Fargo CD is about \$30,000; Dakota Bank CD is \$22, 949.39. The books have been completed through December 2018. A payment needs to be made to National for December and January's membership. Recommend we close out the Wells Fargo CD to ensure we can operate business. The CD only has one owner, Andrew Dellman, and it is up for renewal on April 21, 2019. Recommend we do not renew the Wells Fargo CD at this time. Chad Hartley made a motion to accept the Treasure's Report with a second from Courtney Tyrell. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Member At Large – Area 1 Kayleigh Cihak: This year's membership drive we lost quite a few members even after pushing out the deadline by a month. Area 1 is at around 56%. Feels that it was beneficial to promote the Enlisted Association while assisting with the Education station at various SRP events. Surprised at how many people have no idea what the Association does. Recommends that we adjust the membership drive from November – April since the total doesn't have to be submitted to National until June. This would be an opportunity to see Soldiers face to face and explain the Association. Motion to accept the report. Approved.

Discussed further about setting up a table at SRP events to promote the Enlisted Association and push memberships. Need someone that is not on a drill status or orders to work the table. Maybe see if some of our retirees could assist.

Committee Member At Large – Area 2: No Report

Committee Member At Large – Area 3: No Report

Committee Member At Large – Area 4: No Report

Committee Member At Large – Area 5: No Report

Membership Report was presented by Tabitha Carr. With the completion of this year's membership drive, our paid membership at all levels is 2266 members. In comparison to the last 5 years, our membership has decreased significantly. (2014 – 2696, 2015 – 3185, 2016 – 3166, 2017 – 2651, and 2018 – 24016). Army currently has 1,468 paid members which is down 343 from last year, while the Air has 373 paid members which is up 98 members from last year. The remaining numbers reside in our retired personnel. As of this report, there are 504 paid life members of the organization. There was a slight improvement from last year with less units falling below 10% of their unit goals. However, there were some big units that did fall below 10%. Deployment most likely played a factor for some of our units. All data input and funds for the Army side were deposited and reconciled by Membership Chair, Tabitha Carr, and President Wermers. All Air funds were processed through their membership representatives. Our council voted to have the Members at Large take on this role and it needs to be reinforced. Unit goals have not been verified with units authorized strength yet, but will need to be closely monitored over the next 2 years as we go through re-stationing plans and MTOE changes. Motion to accept the report. Approved.

Membership is the life blood of our organization. Tabitha Carr suggested doing VTC with the different units to open up questions and answers about the Association. We have the technology to reach out to our Soldiers and the units. We even have the capability for Soldiers to pay online versus paying with cash. We have to ask permission to speak to the units during drill time because the Association is not part of the SD National Guard. Another thing we need to get back to is sponsoring Soldiers that have never been to an Enlisted Conference. There also seems to be a lack of support from the Senior Enlisted Leadership down to our lower Enlisted. We need to find people within each unit to help promote and explain the benefits of the Association to others. The Legislative Dining Out is a great opportunity to speak to our Senior Enlisted Leadership and try to get them back on board with supporting the Enlisted Association. The Enlisted Association can't force Soldiers to become members, but they can talk about the benefits. Another good aspect to encourage Soldiers is showing community involvement for their NCOERs.

DEVIATION FROM THE AGENDA

TAG Update Brief – The Adjutant General, Major General Timothy Reisch, addressed the attendees at the executive council meeting. He spoke about two Bills currently going through the House. House Bill 1257 is to authorize the construction of a cold storage building behind the Armory in Sioux Falls and another one on West Camp Rapid. House Bill 1263 is the funding to build the Aviation Readiness Center out in Rapid City. Another Bill that we've talked about in the past is the Servicemember Protection Act Bill. It would allow members of the Armed Forces to carry a pistol concealed without a permit. A couple of things on the National level include pursuing Tricare Reserve Select for Dual Status Technicians. Another thing that is out there right now is the MOMs Act, which would allow Traditional Soldiers 12 weeks of paid maternity leave or the equivalent of 2-3 drill weekends off with pay. The biggest challenge right now with the Army Guard is personnel strength. We are supposed to have 343,500 Soldiers in the Army Guard, but if you look at last year's paid strength we were about 15,000 less. South Dakota is still doing good on strength, but other states are not doing as well. There were less than 20 states last year that made their end strength. There are 26 states that are 95% or less on their paid strength, and they could potentially lose some of their Force Structure. SD Army Guard is sitting at about 104% strength and our Air Guard is at about 106%. Air Guard is slowly stepping away from the Technician force and is migrating positions to Title 32 (AGR). MG Reisch is planning on retiring this year in June. He gave a brief description of the selection process for the next TAG.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont.)

The Legislative Report was presented by Courtney Tyrell. The TAG pretty much summed up everything that is currently going on in legislature. The only other addition is that President Josh Wermers and Courtney Tyrell will be attending a National Workshop in DC, and will hopefully bring back some good information for the Association. This workshop is set up for each State's Enlisted Association President and their Legislative Representative. They will have the opportunity to meet with their Congressmen. Motion to accept the report. Approved.

Constitution and By-Laws Report was presented by Bruce Anderson. Erin Blom, current Treasurer, has forwarded a By-Laws change to Bruce that suggests changing some of the narrative on how the taxes are identified and how we submit them every year. President Wermers presented a By-Laws change proposing a membership due increase. The proposal sheet has three different courses of actions. COA 1: (increase of \$2500 if numbers stayed the same). E1-E4 would increase to \$15. This is a small increase, but if you increase dramatically we could potentially decrease our numbers. We would leave the other rates the same for a year and see if the increase in insurance revenue and working towards retaining old and recruiting new members pays off. COA 2: (increase of \$9850 if numbers stayed the same). E1-E4 would increase to \$20. From a number stand point this would increase the bottom line by over \$6600 if our numbers stayed the same. E5-E6 would increase to \$25. With this increase and if numbers stayed the same this would be a \$3250 increase. Leave the E7-E9 rate the same. COA 3: (increase of \$10751 if numbers stayed the same). Flat Rate changing all levels to \$25. This option looks good on paper, but the increase could deter E4 and below from wanting to pay. President Wermers suggested putting his proposal in the next edition of the Echo so that all Enlisted Soldiers have an opportunity to look it over before the State Conference in April. Nate Hedin suggested another possible COA: E1-E4 at \$15, E5-E6 at \$25, E7-E9 at \$40, and lifetime membership at \$300. It was asked if we could reach out to other states to do a comparison as to what they pay for membership. Ben Lamp suggested separating the two resolutions/by-laws changes between dues for Active members and Lifetime membership. Also discussed setting up a Survey Monkey to send out to all Enlisted.

Scholarship report was presented by Nate Hedin. As of now he has only received 1 application. The deadline is 15 March 2019. Keep in mind these are non-renewing scholarships. If someone won last year they are eligible to apply again this year. There's a lot of free money! All of the information is located on our website and on the EANGUS site.

Sponsorship report was presented by Bruce Anderson. Currently no names have been submitted forward for sponsorship. This information should be advertised in the Echo. If you know somebody who has never been to a State Conference and wants to attend one, have them get in touch with Bruce Anderson. The goal is to sponsor two Army and two Air every year. Bruce will take names up until the week of the Conference.

Black Hills Veterans March report was presented by Ben Lamp. It was well attended again this year, but we lost some of our regular attendees due to deployments with the Air Guard. We are stepping into some new things by promoting the 110 miler. Also looking at some new ways to market the event and get our name out there. Ben is meeting with a company named My Best Runs. They have 650,000 members and they promote marathons nationwide.

2019 State Conference will be co-located this year with the officers in Sioux Falls, SD. Reservations can be made at the downtown Holiday Inn. Thursday afternoon will be the council meeting and hospitality room. Friday morning there will be committee meetings along with the opportunity to sign up and attend a Leadership Development seminar. The general session and speakers will be shared that afternoon with the officers. Friday nights entertainment will be a

comedian/hypnotist. Saturday morning, we will have the business session, and then several activities to choose from that afternoon. Saturday night there will be a social.

OLD BUSINESS

EANGUS prints for fundraising/gifts – Nancy Ausland

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Update presented by Josh Wermers. The insurance program has really changed since we switched to Five Star. They've been out to almost every unit. Dave Burr has picked up 155 new policies within the last month. For every new policy the company cuts us a check for \$25. Between the two associations we will split that money, and at the end of the year we get an additional percentage back based on the number of policies. Work on getting some sort of a trifold that we can hand out to our Soldiers. Currently the funds available in the NGASD Program are over \$158,000 and with the new agreement with AFBA those numbers will continue to rise. It is the intent of the Enlisted Association to reduce the amount of funds and support the Associations. Josh Wermers has outlined a few Courses of Actions to accomplish the task. COA 1: Leave an operating budget of \$50,000 in the account. This will cover administrator costs. Pay each association \$50,000 to use for their needs (as soon as it's approved by the board). At the end of each quarter pay out new accessions at the rate of 75% Enlisted to 25% Officer, and at the end of the fiscal year divide the experience fund and return fees equally between the two associations. COA 2: Leave an operating budget of \$50,000 in the account. Put \$10,000 into the CW2 Darren Mallow Scholarship account. Pay each Association \$50,000 to use for their needs. At the end of each quarter pay out new accessions by splitting 50/50 between the associations, and at the end of the fiscal year divide the experience fund and return fees between both associations. Everyone agreed on COA 2, and that will be presented at the next NGASD Insurance Program meeting held in March. There are 3 Enlisted and 2 Officers on the Insurance Board.

Area 5 Caucus is 17-18 May 2019 in Des Moines, IA. Bruce Anderson, Dean Steinberg, Edna Steinberg, and Courtney Tyrell plan on attending. This is a precursor for the National Conference coming in August.

Bruce Anderson is the point of contact if you are interested in going to the National Conference in Des Moines this year. You have to go through the right chain of command to make room reservations. The dates are 3-8 August 2019.

Future State Conferences: 2019 - Sioux Falls Co-Located with the Officers
2020 – Huron,
2021 – Rapid City
2022 – Rapid City Co-Located with the Officers

Future National Conferences: 2019 – De Moines, IA 4-7 August

2020 – Little Rock, AR 9-12 August

2021 – Albuquerque, NM 31 July – 5 August

Bruce Anderson suggested that we provide some sort of training to Area and Unit Representatives. Train these individuals on how to collect dues, how to inform their Soldiers, and to make them feel more comfortable with their role and position on the Executive Council. Nate Hedin suggested scheduling this training in conjunction with one of our other meetings throughout the year. Rapid City, Sioux Falls, or Sturgis might be good locations to host the training because there are BOQ rooms available. Ben Lamp suggested hosting two training events; one during the State Conference in April for those that can attend, and the second one in September in conjunction with the Black Hills Veterans March. We need to do a better job updating our Soldiers on the status of the resolutions that get submitted at the State Conference. Let them know who is supporting the resolution and who is willing to submit a bill on it. Soldiers want to see and hear about progress.

ADJOURNMENT

The date and time of the next Executive Council Meeting will be at the downtown Holiday Inn in Sioux Falls, SD on 25 April 2019 at 1600 hours.

With nothing further to discuss, Nate Hedin made a motion for adjournment and Chad Hartley seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1620 hours.