



THE ENLISTED *ECHO*

Spring 2019



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sdngea.com
blackhillsveteranmarch.com



60th Annual State Conference
Sioux Falls, 25-27 April 2019

**SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED ASSOCIATION
2018-2019 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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* = Voting Members

Upcoming Events

FUTURE STATE CONFERENCES

April 21-23, 2019 - Sioux Falls, SD
 (Co-located with Officers)
 April 2020 - Huron, SD
 April 2021 - Rapid City, SD

FUTURE NATIONAL CONFERENCES

August 3-8, 2019 - Des Moines, IA
 August 9-12, 2020 - Little Rock, AR
 Jul 31-Aug 4, 2021 -Albuquerque, NM

FUTURE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 25, 2019—Sioux Falls, SD

FUTURE BLACK HILLS VETERANS HONOR MARCH

September 21, 2019 - Deadwood, SD

NEXT ECHO DEADLINE

Fall/Winter 2019- Deadline for submissions is 1 October 2019

The ECHO is produced three times a year by the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association

Letters to the Editor, article requests, and other state association items should be forwarded to the ECHO Editor, Sarah Callies, at sarah.callies@live.com or 8004 E Callies Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57110.

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Please send all e-mail changes to SDNGEA, Attn: Joshua Wermers, joshua.j.wermers.mil@mail.mil or sdngea17@gmail.com

NGAUS Insurance Trust
 Administrator: Dave Burr, (605) 569-6860. This Insurance program benefits the SDNGEA with experience funds annually.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



By SFC Joshua Wermers

As I sit on a crowded plane headed for Washington DC, I write my last letter to the ECHO as your Association President and I reminisce over the past two years. I have represented our members at National Conferences in Reno and Charleston, held executive council meetings, attended Military Dining Outs, attended Presidential and Legislative Workshops in Washington DC, along with numerous other appointed duties. I have learned traditions, legislative processes, connected with hundreds of Soldiers, Airmen, lawmakers and staffers. It has

been a more than memorable experience to say the least.

As I close in to the end of my second term, I search for one answer. How have I left my mark on the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association? Have I passed any of our resolutions through Congress? Almost. It has been difficult to pass much of anything in our politically divided country. Have I changed anything to better the organizations? Maybe. More Soldiers and Airmen have been connected through our Social Media efforts than ever before, and I have been commended by State and National leadership. But our total memberships and conference attendances are down. We are losing the personal touch that has been the cornerstone of this Association since its inception. The only thing that I might be able to hang my hat on is investing in the future. I have made personal relationships that have strengthened our organization. I have found individuals that are passionate about this association and want to volunteer their time and talents to continue to fight for our Soldiers and Airmen. I hope that this is the case. That over the past two years I have forged connections that will continue to improve our time-honored South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association.

I was recently asked by a Senior NCO-why do I volunteer? Why do I spend time away from my family when our jobs require so much commitment and extra time the way it is? What does it do for you, your family, your career?

It is funny that he asked these questions of me, since I had asked these same questions many years ago to a retired Warrant Officer, John Ball. John had been retired for quit a few years when I met him, and he retired as a CW4. But he was still attending State and National Enlisted Association meetings. He mentored me for years to come after answering my question.

I thought about the time restraints and other commitments I have in my life. How volunteerism is in decline. How many people put their selves before others? But to answer the questions. It has not advanced my career and has taken time I could have spent with my family, it hasn't made me rich. So why do I do it? Well, when I was hired AGR as an E4 my supervisor, CSM Tom Hafner, told me that the only reason I had a job was to take care of Soldiers, and when I went to

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT CONTINUED

my first NCOES school, I was told it is my responsibility to take care of Soldiers. So that is why I do it. It's not for myself, it's to take care of all of you, the Soldiers and Airmen of the South Dakota National Guard.

So, if you come to a state conference 5, 10 or 20 years from now you will see me there. I believe in this organization, I will continue to serve the Soldiers and Airmen of the South Dakota National Guard. Someday I hope that I get asked that same question for many years to come and have the chance to mentor a future President of our Association.

Thank you for allowing me to be your President. It has been an honor.

God bless you, your families and America

Josh Wermers

Visit www.sdngcea.com and "like" the *South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association* on Facebook for more great information and updates!

Are you looking to get more involved?

The SDNGEA has an opening for a Treasure.

This position takes about 4 hours per month.

Basic Checkbook and basic computer knowledge are required.

Treasure attends 3 council meetings per year.

Treasure pays all travel and expenses for the Association.

The Association uses QuickBooks to track expenses (knowledge of the program is not needed)

Treasure is also responsible for filing taxes and chairing the Budget Committee.

MSgt Blom is the Staff Accountant for the SDANG and will ensure that proper training is given to whomever takes over.

FROM YOUR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, Kayleen Meyers



It is hard to believe that in a month we will be at The 60th Annual State Conference which is on April 25th-27th in Sioux Falls. If you haven't registered for the conference, I encourage you to do so. Registration forms can be found on the SDNGEA website and you can also register online for the Conference now as well. I am looking forward to seeing everyone. It is a great time to meet others from around the state and support the Enlisted Association.

The meetings and agendas are being planned and there are many activities planned as well. Take a look and enjoy some of them while in Sioux Falls for our annual meeting. It is going to be a great Conference.

I would like to invite any spouse of an Enlisted member to attend the Auxiliary meetings. I would love to see you all there. If you have anything you would like to bring up for discussion for the auxiliary the conference is a great time for that as well. Executive Council Meetings start on Thursday. You can also follow things on our Facebook page as well.

I would also like to mention that our membership drive for this year is underway. The applications for memberships can be found on the SDNGEA website. Membership strength and numbers help to support our voice on Legislative issues that impact all airmen, soldiers, and their families. I encourage anyone to contact me or another member if you have any questions about the Auxiliary.

If you have any questions please contact me anytime. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Conference in April.

Get involved with your Government and call your Congressmen. Know the issues and weigh in on them!



Senator John Thune
Washington D.C. Office
202 224-2321



Representative Dusty Johnson
Washington D.C. Office
202-225-2801



Senator Mike Rounds
Washington D.C. Office
202-224-5842

TEST YOUR ENDURANCE. EXERCISE YOUR PATRIOTISM!

**BLACK HILLS
VETERAN MARCH
AND MARATHON
21 SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Black Hills Veterans March and Marathon is an annual trek through the mountainous terrain of South Dakota's beautiful Black Hills. This march/marathon pays tribute to the many sacrifices that this nation's veterans have made in the past and continue to make today. All event proceeds are used to benefit veterans. We're currently looking for sponsors, volunteers and participants. Register at Blackhillsveteranmarch.com.

60th Annual Conference
of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association

2019 Conference Draft Agenda

Downtown Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls, SD

Thursday, 25 April 2019

1600-2000 Registration
 1500-1700 Executive Council Meeting
 1700-1900 Committee Meetings
 1700-0000 Hospitality Room

Friday, 26 April 2019

0900-1200 Registration
 0800-1130 Committee Meetings
 1100-1200 Retiree Luncheon

Opening Ceremony (Business Attire)

1300-1700

- Posting of the Colors
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation/Memorial Service
- Welcome Distinguished Guests
- Introduction of the Conference Vendors
- Welcome Sioux Falls Mayor
- TAG Address
- Congressional Delegation Address
- ATAG Address Army/Air
- State Enlisted Leaders Address

1430 Break (Officers and Enlisted Separate)

1st Business Session

- Roll Call of Executive Council
- Approval of Minutes from 59th Annual Conference
- Area V Report – Chuck Kasin
- Life Insurance Report – Dave Burr
- Museum Report – Sonja Johnson
- Military Retiree Update – Dave Frock/Bob Aiken
- Treasurers Report – Erin Blom
- Budget Committee Report – Erin Blom
- Audit Committee Report – Chad Hartley
- Scholarship Report – Nathan Hedin
- State Conference Sponsorship Report – Bruce Anderson
- Nominations Preliminary Report – Nancy Ausland
- Awards Committee Preliminary Report – Andy Meyers
- Proxy Letters (Last Call)

As discussed at the last State Conference we would like to change the dress code to *Business Casual*. In doing so, it removes the barrier of rank and fosters an environment for members to freely express their opinions.

Business casual includes collared shirts, blouses, closed toe shoes, and professional skirts and dresses. No shorts, T-shirts or blue jeans. Executive council members at the head table will be in business traditional. *We will all be representing the Enlisted Association, so please dress professionally!*



President Josh Wermers and Legislative Officer Courtney Tyrrell with National Guard Bureau Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sergeant Major Christopher Kepner during an EANGUS Awards Event.

- Awards Presentations
- Standing Proud Awards

1630 Recess 1st Business Session

1630-1830 Committee Meetings

1730-1900 Hospitality Room

1830-1900 Social

1900-1159 Event

Saturday, 27 April 2019**0800-1200 2nd Business Session (Business Attire)**

- Resolutions Preliminary Report – Courtney Tyrrell
- Membership Committee Report – Tabatha Carr
- Credentials Committee Report – Tabatha Carr
- Ways & Means Committee Report – Bruce Anderson
- Time and Place Report – Anna Simons
- Position Evaluation Committee Report – Nathan Hedin
- Constitution & By-Laws Committee Report – Bruce Anderson
- Investment Committee Report – Robert Aiken
- Young Heroes Committee Report – Dave Peck
- Legislative Committee Report – Courtney Tyrrell
- Publications Committee Report – Sarah Callies
- Black Hills Veteran Honor March & Marathon – Ben Lamp
- Jr. Enlisted Air Report – Derek Jaeger
- Jr. Enlisted Army Report – Anna Simons

0945-1000 BREAK

- Presentation of 20 Year Certificates and Pins with the SEL
- President's Report – Josh Wermers
- Resolutions Voting – Courtney Tyrrell
- Nominations Voting – Nancy Ausland
- 2018 State Conference Report – Anna Simons/Nancy Ausland
- Old Business
- New Business
- Installation of Officers
- Administrative Announcements
- Retire the Colors

1200 Adjourn 60th Annual Conference**1100-1200 Auxiliary Luncheon****1300-1600 Social Events****1900-2100 Banquet Meal (Business Casual)**

- Presentation of Soldier/Airmen of the Year
- Presentation of Warrant and Officer of the Year
- Scholarships

2100-0000 Hospitality Room**Sunday, 28 April 2019**

0900-1030 New Executive Council Meeting



President Josh Wermers and Legislative Officer Courtney Tyrrell with National Guard Bureau Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major John Sampa during an EANGUS Awards Event.

Legislative Officer Report

By Courtney Tyrrell — Legislative Officer

According to the By-Laws I am to perform the duties of chairperson in a committee set up by him/herself and the President to study and recommend all resolutions that are of a legislative nature; set up a mutual meeting with the Legislative Committee of the South Dakota National Guard Association and discuss pertinent legislative programs; and give a report on National Legislation that pertains to the National Guard.

This seems pretty basic but there is so much more! On 26-27 February 2019 I was able to travel to Washington DC to attend the EANGUS Legislative workshop for the first time. I have been to many State Conferences, State Legislative Dining Outs, SDNGEA Executive Council Meetings, and EANGUS conferences, but my recent trip to our nation's capital has brought it all together. President Wermers and I had the honor of listening to many speakers before we went out and met with our state Senator and Congressmen. Congressmen Mark Green from Tennessee was our first speakers and a great supporter of EANGUS. He has an incredible background in the military and told us his amazing story of how he went from the Army to the House of Representatives. He was just one of the many that showed us support and listened to our concerns.

We also had several question and answer panels about veteran's services. The subject matter experts were asked some hard questions. One particular concern that was discussed was the wait time from age 60, when traditional guardsmen become eligible for retired benefits, to when retirees actually start receiving benefits. Currently it takes 9-12 months after turning 60 to process the eligibility paperwork, start retired pay, and enroll in tri-care. I personally think that this is unacceptable and I hope that some visibility from capitol hill will help reduce the inefficiency.

We were pushing three topics to our state representatives: Tri-Care Reserve Select (TRS) Expansion, DD 214 expansion, and title 10 12304b benefit reform. The TRS expansion would allow federal employees to be eligible. The DD 214 expansion would grant this well understood document to Soldiers and Airmen when they retire. Even though we get a NGB 22, the DD 214

is so much more well-known and ensures that benefits are easily accessed. The Title 10 USC 12304B benefit reform would allow similar benefits for contingency and non-contingency Title 10 tours. I could write about three pages on these three topics but instead you can find more information at <https://eangus.org/2019-legislative-workshop/> by clicking on the topics under white papers.

Don't forget that if you have an idea on how to improve our organization or a proposal for a national change, bring it forward as a resolution. The Resolution Committee will review proposals at the State Conference 25-28 April 2019.

I would like to leave you with some motivation! If you have not watched any of the video interviews of Richard Pimental, you need to drop everything and prepare to be inspired. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teUd1GB8kgU> There are several videos for you to watch if you have the time! Anyways, Richard lost nearly all of his hearing while serving in the Vietnam War, but instead of coming home and being limited, he became an American disability rights advocate, trainer, and speaker, who was a strong advocate for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He talks about responsibility, and how you can break the word down to response and ability. Do you have the ability to help fight for our benefits like Richard did? What is your response?

I hope to see you at the State Conference!



President Josh Wermers and Legislative Officer Courtney Tyrrell with Senator Mike Rounds during a Legislative Workshop in Washington D.C.

By Laws Change Proposals

Change #1

Original:

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be \$12.00 annually for E-1 through E-4, \$20.00 annually for E-5 & E-6, and \$30.00 annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

New

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be **\$15.00** annually for E-1 through E-4, \$20.00 annually for E-5 & E-6, and \$30.00 annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

Change #2

Original:

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be \$12.00 annually for E-1 through E-4, \$20.00 annually for E-5 & E-6, and \$30.00 annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

New

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be **\$20.00** annually for E-1 through E-4, **\$25.00** annually for E-5 & E-6, and \$30.00 annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

Change #3

Original:

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be \$12.00 annually for E-1 through E-4, \$20.00 annually for E-5 & E-6, and \$30.00 annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

New

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be **\$15.00** annually for E-1 through E-4, **\$25.00** annually for E-5 & E-6, and **\$40.00** annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

Change #4

Original:

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be \$12.00 annually for E-1 through E-4, \$20.00 annually for E-5 & E-6, and \$30.00 annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

New Option 1:

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be **\$25.00 annually for all ranks and retired** members which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate.

Change #5

Original:

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be \$12.00 annually for E-1 through E-4, \$20.00 annually for E-5 & E-6, and \$30.00

By Laws Change Proposals Continued

annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

New

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be **\$30.00 annually for all ranks and retired** members which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate.

Change #6

Original:

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be \$12.00 annually for E-1 through E-4, \$20.00 annually for E-5 & E-6, and \$30.00 annually for E-7 through E-9, which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate. The retired membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year for the Association dues plus the National Association dues in effect at that time.

New

Section 2: Membership in this Association shall be **\$35.00 annually for all ranks and retired** members which includes the national EANGUS (\$11.00) membership. Any National dues increase will be added to this structure as the situation at the time may dictate.

Change #7

Original

C. Life Membership. Upon application, and payment of the prescribed amount, a person who is qualified to be an annual member, may be issued a life membership. Retention of life membership will be contingent on current membership in the South Dakota National Guard or as a retired member of the South Dakota National Guard.

(1) The prescribed dues for current members shall be a flat rate of \$140.00 for SDNGEA life dues plus EANGUS life dues of ten times the current annual EANGUS membership rate.

(2) The prescribed dues for retired members shall be a flat rate of EANGUS life dues of ten times the current annual EANGUS membership rate; SDNGEA life dues will be waived for retired member.

New

C. Life Membership. Upon application, and payment of the prescribed amount, a person who is qualified to be an annual member, may be issued a life membership. Retention of life membership will be contingent on current membership in the South Dakota National Guard or as a retired member of the South Dakota National Guard.

(1) The prescribed dues for current members shall be a flat rate of **\$190.00** for SDNGEA life dues plus EANGUS life dues of ten times the current annual EANGUS membership rate.

(2) The prescribed dues for retired members shall be a flat rate of EANGUS life dues of ten times the current annual EANGUS membership rate; SDNGEA life dues will be waived for retired member.

Change #8

Original

11. Shall insure that Form 990 is submitted to the IRS on or before July 15th of each year. This form must be filed within 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, which ends on 30 April. (Fiscal Year has changed to 1 May through 30 April). This change was voted on during the executive council meeting in April of 2006.

New

Shall insure that **the proper tax forms are** submitted to the IRS **by the IRS deadlines. Per the IRS Laws currently** the forms must be filed within 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, which ends on 30 April. (Fiscal Year has changed to 1 May through 30 April). This change was voted on during the executive council meeting in April of 2006.

Change #9

Addition 12. Shall contact the IRS by phone to ensure that our taxes were accepted. If the IRS did not send a letter confirming the tax form being accepted the Treasurer will draft a letter with the information from the phone call and send to the President. This should be completed 30 days after the taxes were filled.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2019 - Ramkota, Pierre, SD

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 Treasurer'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*

Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

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



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- Your membership in this program brings \$ back to your association.
- pays your claim within 24 hours.

Member COVERAGE	Monthly PREMIUM		Spouse COVERAGE	Monthly PREMIUM
\$5,000	\$2.00		\$5,000	\$2.00
\$10,000	\$3.66		\$10,000	\$4.00
\$15,000	\$5.33		\$15,000	\$6.00
\$20,000	\$7.00		\$20,000	\$7.00
\$25,000	\$8.67		\$25,000	\$8.67
\$35,000	\$12.00		DEPENDENTS	
\$50,000	\$17.00		\$2,000	\$1.33
			\$5,000	\$3.33
			\$10,000	\$6.66

Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

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



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Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

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.

Resources:

Jobs:

- Corporate America Supports You (CASY)-
www.casy.us
- Recruit Military-<https://recruitmilitary.com/eangus>
- Military Spouse Corporate Career Network
MSCCN-<https://www.msccn.org/>

Education:

- Higher Education Resource Center HERC-<https://degreequickly.com/nationalguard.html>
- Speedy Prep-<https://www.speedyprep.com/eangus-members-save-time-money-with-speedyprep/?affiliate-code=34ngu5>
- Making Education Possible (MEP)-<http://makingeducationpossible.com>

VA Home Loan Benefits:

- info@VetsDU.org

Executive Council Meeting Minutes Continued

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 – Des 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.

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Item	Preview	Size	Color	Quantity	Base Price*
L2780 Ladies Sport-Tek True Royal, 1/2 zip pullover, moisture wicking, 80% polyester / 20% spandex, 4x4 twill.		XS	Blue	1	\$40.00
L2780 Ladies Sport-Tek Black, 1/2 zip pullover, moisture wicking, 80% polyester / 20% spandex, 4x4 twill.		XS	Black	1	\$40.00
S7800 Unisex Sport-Tek True Royal, 1/2 zip pullover, moisture wicking, 80% polyester / 20% spandex.		XS	Blue	1	\$35.00
S7800 Unisex Sport-Tek Black, 1/2 zip pullover, moisture wicking, 80% polyester / 20% spandex.		XS	Black	1	\$35.00
L28 Ladies Port Authority True Blue Polo, 100% moisture wicking polyester.		XS	Blue	1	\$35.00
L28 Ladies Port Authority Black Polo, 100% moisture wicking polyester.		XS	Black	1	\$35.00
L28 Ladies Port Authority True Blue Polo, 100% moisture wicking polyester.		XS	Blue	1	\$35.00
L28 Ladies Port Authority Black Polo, 100% moisture wicking polyester.		XS	Black	1	\$35.00

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 Association 2019 Conference**
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26 March 2019

2019 SDNGEA Grand Slam Conference Registration Form

SDNGEA member Rank: _____ Unit: _____

April 25-28, 2019

Member First/Last Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration Fees

SDNGEA Conference Reg	\$55	Guest Conference Reg	\$55	Guest Banquet Only:	\$30
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Saturday afternoon Activities will be announced in the coming months! Please watch your email for more information. You must register for the conference if you plan to attend any activities/socials and partake of the hospitality room. No selection needed for Banquet since it is Buffet-Style.

Registering a Guest? Yes No Guest Name: _____

Guest: Saturday Evening Banquet Only – Buffet-style:

Yes, I need _____ additional Banquet Tickets. (Add \$30 per ticket to payment total)

Bringing a Child or Children?

1. Name: _____ Shirt Size _____ Age as of April 25, 2019: _____
 Needs Childcare Yes No *Child Activities to be announced at a later date!*

Saturday evening banquet: \$20 (14 and under) Attending \$30 (15 and older)

Not Attending

2. Name: _____ Shirt Size _____ Age as of April 25, 2019: _____
 Needs Childcare Yes No *Child Activities to be announced at a later date!*

Saturday evening banquet: \$20 (14 and under) Attending \$30 (15 and older) Not Attending

3. Name: _____ Shirt Size _____ Age as of April 25, 2019: _____
 Needs Childcare Yes No *Child Activities to be announced at a later date!*

Saturday evening banquet: \$20 (14 and under) Attending \$30 (15 and older) Not Attending

If registering more than 3 children, please write name, age, childcare information, on the back of the form.

Payment Summary

Member Registration Total Due: \$ _____

Guest Registration Total Due: \$ _____

Additional Banquet Ticket Total: \$ _____

Child Registration Total Due: \$ _____

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

If using hard copy registration, mail or drop off completed

Registration form with cash or check to:

Jeff Vanderwoude
 114 MXG/CCC
 1201 W Algonquin Street
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104-0264

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2018-2019 Committee Assignments

Awards 1st Vice - Chairman	Budget Chair	Treasurer -	SDNG Insurance Trust	Members at Large	
Andy Meyer- Chairman Josh Wermers, Nancy Ausland	Erin Blom - Chair Josh Wermers, Nancy Ausland		Dave Burr - Chair (SDNGEA)Richard Watkins, Josh Schaefer (NGASD) Mitchell Nachtigall, Deb Bartunek, Martin Yost	Area 1 - Kayleigh Cihak Area 2 - Jackie Dunlavy Area 3 - Shane Wilkinson Area 4 - Will Hangman Area 5 - Chris Portice	
Constitution & By Laws Secretary - Custodian	Time & Place Vice - Assist	2nd	Credentials Membership Chair - Chairman	Resolutions	Membership 2nd Vice - Assist
Bruce Anderson - Chairman Ben Lamp, Rorie Gregor	Anna Simons - Chairman Nate Hedin, Sarah Callies, Scott Rosenkranz		Tabbatha Carr - Chairman Will Hangman, Dale Greenfield	Jennifer Siebenahler, Chris Portice, Derek Jaeger, Kayleigh Cihak, Anna Simons, Courtney Tyrrell	Tabby Carr - Chair John Leffing, Nate Gomez, Will Hangman
Position Evaluation 2nd Vice - Chair & Committee Members	Ways & Means		Publications	Nominations	Web Site
Nate Hedin - Chairman Kayleigh Cihak, Jackie Dunlavy, Shane Wilkinson, Chris Portice, Will Hangman	Bruce Anderson		Sarah Callies - Chairman Kim Chase	Nancy Ausland - Chairman Jerry Eisenbraun, Bob Funk	Kim Chase - Chairman Nate Gomez
Young Heroes	Legislative		Parliamentarian	State Conf Sponsor Program	Black Hill Veterans March
David Peck - Co-Chair Cynthia Majors - Co-Chair	Courtney Tyrrell - Chairman Derek Jaeger,		Ben Lamp - Chiarman	Bruce Anderson - Chairman	Benjamin Lamp - Chair Josh Wermers, Rorie Gregor, Jennifer Siebenahler, David Frock, Charles Fincher, Jeremy Eccelston, Kayleigh Cihak
Scholarship 2nd Vice - Chairman	Audit		Investment Committee	Historian	Jr Enlisted
Nate Hedin - Chairman Derek Jaeger	Chad Hartley - Chairman Dave Frock,		Bruce Anderson - Chairman Shane Wilkinson, Robert Aiken	Mark Jensen - Chairman	Army - Anna Simons Air - Derek Jaeger

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WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Active-duty members or honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (including Reserves and National Guard) with a service-connected disability
- Spouses and unmarried dependent children of U.S. service members with a service-connected disability
- Caregivers/non-medical attendants of a service member with a service-connected disability

RECIPIENTS RECEIVE

- Full tuition to any CTU degree program
- New laptop computer
- All course books, in hard-copy or electronic format
- Dedicated Student Success Coach and specially trained military education advisors
- 24/7 technical support and tutoring
- Option to study online or at one of CTU's campuses

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March 1, 2019	Application Window Opens
June 30, 2019	Application Deadline
November 11, 2019	Recipients Announced
January/February 2020	Recipients Start Class



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and a plaque commemorating your commitment.

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Recognition on our Website, A booth at our Annual State Conference (location changes every year)
and a certificate commemorating your commitment.

SILVER MEMBER \$250.00

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and Recognition on our Website

BUSINESS CARD MEMBER \$50.00

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SDNGEA.Conference@gmail.com (605) 737-6756**

CURRENTLY WORKING BILLS AND LEGISLATION

- The 2018 SDNGEA Resolutions below all were APPROVED as National Resolutions except 2018-03.
- National Resolution 18-11 Assistance to Air Guardsmen Completing Application for Retirement
- National Resolution 18-12 Decentralization of ANG Funding for Recruiting Advertising
- National Resolution 18-13 ANG Tuition Assistance Equality
- National Resolution 18-14 Pilot Program for a combined DoD University
- National Resolution 18-15 Implementation of Space-A for Retiree's
- National Resolution 17-01 Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer Eligibility Benefits for Retirees
- National Resolution 17-02 TriCare coverage for service members outside of their authorized medical region
- National Resolution 17-05 Health Care Benefit Enhancement
- National Resolution 17-08 TriCare as an eligible option under FEHB for Military Technicians**
- National Resolution 17-11 Adjusting the tax burden for those Veterans using the Disability Discharge for Student Loans
- National Resolution 17-12 Technician Voluntary Leave Transfer (VLT) Program
- National Resolution 17-13 Boosting Military Leave from 120 hours to 160 hours**
- National Resolution 17-15 Retiree Health Care Revision
- National Resolution 17-16 Support of the structure and equipment issues that are endorsed by the NGA US and AGAUS
- SDNGEA Resolution 2018-01 Concurrent Receipt of Federal Tuition Assistance (T A) and MGB
- SDNGEA Resolution 2018-02 Allow Bonus Incentives for All National Guard Service Members
- SDNGEA Resolution 2018-03 Continued contribution to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) after expiration of service obligation
- SDNGEA Resolution 2018-06 Allow National Guard Airmen to receive education benefits comparable to National Guard Soldiers
- SDNGEA Resolution 2018-07 Dual Status Technician Maternity & Paternity Leave
- SDNGEA Resolution 2018-08 Support for Mothers of Military Service Leave Act
- SDNGEA Resolution 2018-09 SDBOR Policy No. 5:5:1
- SDNGEA Resolution 2018-10 Automatic re-enrollment in TriCare Reserve Select (TRS) and Military Contractor after (AD) time in which TriCare Prime automatically kicked in.
- SDNGEA Resolution 2017-02 Ensure Reserve Component (RC) health care benefits eligibility for all RC personnel regardless of employment or employer

To see more information and the full resolutions please go to <https://sdngea.com>



National Guard Associations of South Dakota Insurance Program

Monthly Premiums Guard Members	Spouse Coverage	
	Coverage Premium	Premium
\$10,000	\$3.66	\$5,000 \$2.00
\$15,000	\$5.33	\$10,000 \$4.00
\$20,000	\$7.00	\$15,000 \$6.00
\$25,000	\$8.67	\$20,000 \$7.00
\$35,000	\$12.00	\$25,000 \$8.67
\$50,000	\$17.01	(Dependent children rates available)

Contact David Burr, Administrator 605-569-6860



Benefits you need to know:

- If you purchase before you retire you can retain your benefits until age 65 which can be converted to a whole life plan without a physical.
- Your membership in this program brings \$ back to your association.
- Pays your claim within 24 hours.



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South Dakota National Guard

Enlisted Association

PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to perpetuate the National Guard; to hold all enlisted personnel of the South Dakota National Guard in proximity with each other; to promote and maintain adequate educational instruction which will endeavor to advance the status, welfare and professionalism of the enrolled members and to maintain adequate national security through the endeavors of the enlisted members of the South Dakota National Guard.

AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary supports & promotes the Enlisted Association & its legislative efforts for improvement & retention of benefits for National Guard members. It provides scholarships to high school seniors whose parents are members of the Auxiliary & SDNGEA . Spouses of SDNGEA members are encouraged to join the Auxiliary.

BENEFITS THE ASSOCIATION HAS SUPPORTED AND WON FOR YOU

- Tricare Reserve Select
- Tricare Dental Program
- Earned Retirement Points
- Veteran Status for 20 years of service
- National Guard 4 Star General to Joint Chiefs
- Pay and allowances equal to Active Forces
- Re-employment rights for Reserve Forces
- 4 days of pay for 2 days of work
- Survivor Benefits
- Unlimited Commissary Privileges
- Distinctive SDNG License plates
- Montgomery GI Bill for Guard/Reserve
- National Cemeteries Burial Rights
- 50% State Tuition Assistance
- Increased pay for State Active Duty
- Inclusion of chiropractic care and acupuncture into TriCare plans.

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E1-E4 ally	\$12.00 Annu-
E5-E6 ally	\$20.00 Annu-
E7-E9 ally	\$30.00 Annu-
Retired ally	\$14.00 Annu-
Associate Member ally	\$20.00 Annu-
Life Membership	\$250.00
Retired Life Membership	\$110.00
Auxiliary Member ALLY	\$15.00 ANNU-
Auxiliary Associate Member ALLY	\$5.00 ANNU-

\$11.00 out of each membership is sent to our National Association for National Dues and 2.9% plus 80¢ for each transaction goes to transfer fees.

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Fill in your information
Make sure you choose the correct UNIT

UPCOMING EVENTS

LEADERSHIP

2018-2019

President Joshua Wermers	605-786-2032
1st Vice President Andy Meyers	605-940-1770
2nd Vice President Nathan Hedin	605-645-2861
Past President Nancy Ausland	605-988-5946
Treasurer Erin Blom	605-201-2638
Secretary Rorie Gregor	605-881-6736
Executive Director Bruce Anderson	605-321-2752
JR Air Rep Briana Grage	605-370-1808
JR Army Anna Simons	605-870-6992
Committee Members at Large	
Area 1 Kayleigh Chinak	605-490-2747
Area 2 Anson Juells	605-773-3449
Area 3 Shane Wilkinson	605-216-8315
Area 4 Will Hangman	605-940-6259
Area 5 Chris Portice	605-310-6075
Squadron Representatives	
OPS/FW Rick Vanden Hoek	605-988-5672
LRS Charles Fincher	605-366-8679
MXG Braiden Smith	605-839-9040
Battalion Representatives	
JFHQ Jeremy Eccleston	605-521-8970
196th MEB Mark Jensen	605-261-0231
196th RTI Chad Hartley	605-737-6758
109th RSG Joshua Schaefer	605-390-6614